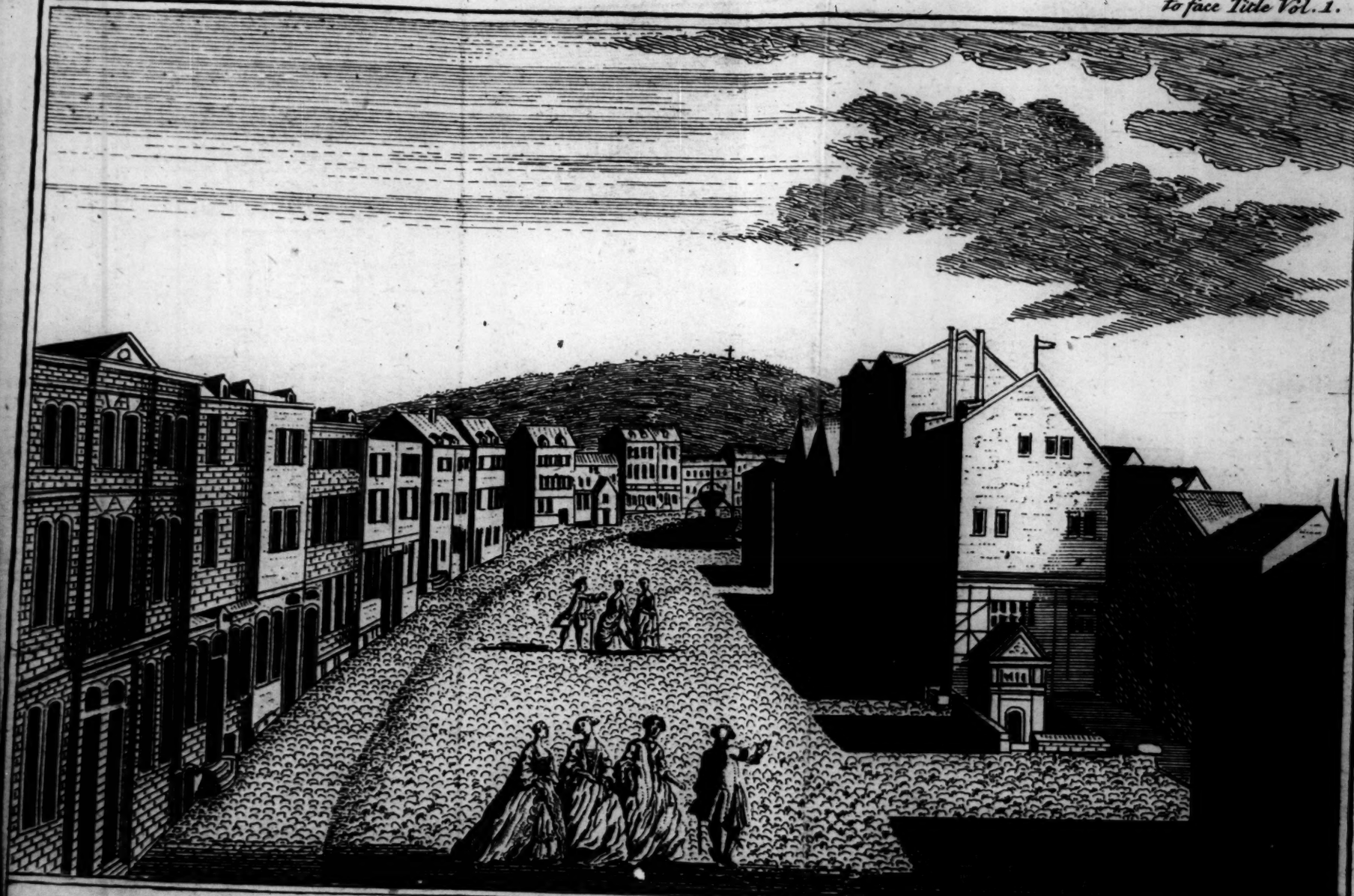

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New Amuſements

OF THE

GERMAN SPA.

Written in FRENCH, in the Year 1763,

By J. P. De LIMBOURG, M. D.

Senior Fellow of the ROYAL ACADEMY of SCIENCES at *Montpelier*.

DECORATED WITH

VIEWS of SPA and its ENVIRONS,

Comprehending the new Buildings and Improvements.

VOLUME I.

"The preſent Amuſements are ſo abſolutely altered from the paſt, "that even the regulations preſcribed to thoſe who drink the wa- "ters are new: the difference, in a word, is total. *Preface.*

LONDON,

Printed for L. DAVIS and C. REYMERS, in Holborn; W. OWEN, near Temple-Bar; W. SANDBY, againſt St. Dunſtan's Church, Fleet Street; and R. BALDWIN, in Pater-Noſter-Row.

MDCCLXIV.

BRITISH MUSEUM

PREFACE.

A Preface cannot poſſibly appear with more advantage, than in the front of a work profeſſedly calculated for amuſement; for, like a prologue to a play, it ſerves the double purpoſe of bringing author and reader acquainted, and ſetting before the latter a bill of fare to whet his appetite for the dainties which are to follow: peradventure, Sir Critic will add a third advantage, namely, that oftentimes it ſaves aforeſaid reader further trouble.

If matters relative to health will admit of being treated in a jocoſe manner, the author of a treatiſe on *the Mineral Waters of the Spa* may challenge a right to call wit and humour to his aid: for the neceſſity there is for amuſement, in order to render the uſe of theſe waters ſucceſsful, is ſurely motive ſufficient to give a ſanction to ſuch an undertaking.

There are two kinds of people who viſit us at Spa; the one pries narrowly into the

innate virtues of our waters; the other principally regards the amuſements that are to be met with there: it is highly requiſite, that each party ſhould be gratified in its purſuit; and for that reaſon we ſhall uſe our utmoſt endeavours, in the proſecution of this work, to make it entertaining as well as inſtructive.

The firſt claſs, who are much leſs numerous than the latter, are for enquiring, as ſtrictly as poſſible, into the occult qualities of our fountains; their analyſis, and peculiar virtues; and, above all, the various influences and effects that each has upon the human body: they will not be impoſed on by too free and bold aſſertions, ſuch as empirics would venture to pronounce without ſcruple: they expect proofs, they require abſolute demonſtrations, and muſt be fully convinced, in an article of ſuch importance, by rational and cogent arguments.

The ſecond claſs who viſit theſe ſalutary fountains, are compoſed of perſons of all ranks and degrees; whom diſſipation, or an ill ſtate of health, induces to have recourſe to them. Diverſions therefore of every ſort are to be met with at Spa, and it may be truly called the ſeat of pleaſure and gaiety; where even the regard which invalids ſhould have for their health is of very little reſtraint, ſince diverſions ſerve to accompliſh that important end in the moſt plea-

ſing

ſing way. This being the caſe, the far greater part of our viſiters require nothing more than a knowledge of the place; ſuch an account which they can comprehend with eaſe, of the nature of the waters, and their different effects; directions relative to the beſt roads leading to the ſpot; the natural hiſtory of the country, its government, revolutions, and politics: they will not be diſpleaſed, perhaps, ſhould they find an agreeable intermixture of entertaining adventures, and curious anecdotes; but what they want more particularly, is a juſt plan of the mode of living there, an idea of the manners, converſations, pleaſures, freedoms, and expences of the place: and it is in order to gratify my readers in all the above articles, that I have publiſhed an account of theſe Mineral Waters under the title of New Amuſements.

It is highly probable, that a preciſe, cenſorious perſon, at the firſt glance on my new deſign, will be apt to cry out, with an air of contempt,—How ſhamefully the number of book-makers are multiplied of late! For heaven's ſake, what occaſion for two authors, within the compaſs of a few years, to publiſh their reſpective Amuſements of the Spa!

But be that as it may, what unprejudiced reader can cenſure a deſign to improve an old work, ſo as to render it, if

not more pleaſant and entertaining, at leaſt more uſeful and advantageous? To ſum up the matter, if the former Amuſements had not been over-charged with ſo many particulars as are now quite foreign to the purpoſe, I had never attempted to ſubſtitute a new treatiſe in their ſtead: the hiſtories which are there related at large, more particularly the Adventures of Baron Polnitz; thoſe of Signor Gratiani, (in which every minute incident is enlarged upon, relative to the misfortunes and diſgrace of the unhappy prince Alexis, ſon of the czar Peter the Great;) and ſeveral others, which may ſtill be read with pleaſure by thoſe who have a taſte for ſuch adventures; theſe are no leſs amuſements, in all other places, than at the Spa in particular; and, for that reaſon, are with leſs propriety to be comprehended under the title of Amuſements of the Spa*.

Beſides,

* The reaſons given by the author for rejecting theſe hiſtories in his New Amuſements, determined the proprietors of this tranſlation not entirely to reject them, namely, becauſe *they may be ſtill read with pleaſure*; and, becauſe *they are no leſs amuſements in all other places than at the Spa.* Add to this, that the hiſtory of Gratiani in particular probably never yet appeared in Engliſh; that all of them are very innocent, and very entertaining; that by way of rendering them acceptable, ſuch paſſages are omitted as were tedious and unintereſting: and laſtly, that the purchaſers might have no room for complaint, they have printed the work in a ſmall character, in order to make room for ſo entertaining an addition without enhancing the price.

Beſides, a vaſt variety of objects which were to be ſeen there thirty years ago, now make a quite different figure. What numberleſs variations have there not been made within theſe few years, with reſpect to the buildings, as well as the walks, not only at the Spa, but in its environs? and for that reaſon, doubtleſs, the deſcriptions, the views and proſpects, then given, are, for the greater part, now grown out of date, and require new ones to ſupply their place. The Amuſements that were then in vogue, the walks which were then frequented, nay, the very diet and manner of living, are altered. Every article is conducted on a new plan; even the regulations preſcribed to thoſe who drink the waters are new: the difference, in a word, is total.

When my bookſeller therefore communicated to me his intention to reprint the former work, I demonſtrated to him the impropriety, and he determined to publiſh, in its ſtead, theſe *New Amuſements* in the form they now ſtand.

As I am a native of the country, and am every ſeaſon reſident on the ſpot, I could doubtleſs acquaint myſelf with minute circumſtances requiſite for the accompliſhment of ſuch a plan, and look into things with much more eaſe than a ſtranger, who perhaps has viſited the place once, either to drink the waters, or for his

diverſion. Beſides, as I am a phyſician, and by that means have frequent admittance to all ranks of people, the parties of pleaſure in which I partake, and the converſations which I daily fall into, muſt neceſſarily give me an adequate idea of the manner in which the *beau-monde* ſpend their time at the Spa, the courſe of life they lead, the different amuſements they purſue; all which are there concentred, and preſent themſelves without formal reſearches.

There are ſome, perhaps, to whom it may ſeem ſtrange, that a phyſician ſhould thus amuſe himſelf, by making it his ſtudy to amuſe other people. Is this an objection that ought juſtly to be expected? To ſpeak my ſentiments freely, I think it very ill grounded; and, if the caſe be thought dubious, I will give you my unanſwerable reply. As the phyſician is formed of the ſame materials with the reſt of his fellow-creatures, he muſt find time for the relaxation of his mind from his daily avocations, as well as other people; and ſuch intervals he may, doubtleſs, if he pleaſes, employ on ſubjects foreign to his profeſſion, without being cenſured for a neglect of the duties of his ſtation. The mind is not always to be upon the ſtretch:

Neque

——*Neque ſemper arcum*
Tendit Apollo.

" The bow Apollo does not always uſe,
" But with his milder lyre ſometimes awakes
" the muſe"*.

Of all amuſements, thoſe ſurely ought to meet with the greateſt indulgence, which are accompanied with inſtruction‡. Let us, however, carry the objection ſtill a little farther. Will not the name of a phyſician, in the front of a treatiſe profeſſedly

* When we conſider our author in the light of a phyſician, his quotation from Horace may be allowed to have ſome degree of humour in it, if we take Francis for the tranſlator.

" Apollo ſometimes can inſpire
" The ſilent muſe, and wake the lyre:
" *The deathful bow not always plies*".

HORACE, Book II. Ode x.

‡ If a ſerious remark may be introduced in a work of amuſement, Who ever cenſured the poetical excurſions of divers very eminent phyſicians in all ages? Who ever thought it ſtrange, that ſome of the wiſeſt men ſhould ſteal, from their more abſtruſe and ſevere ſtudies, a few hours, in order to recruit their ſpirits, and enable them to purſue their knotty problems with more alacrity and vigour? Becauſe the Baron de Haller, for inſtance, has been juſtly eſteemed a very profound naturaliſt, and an univerſally-eſteemed phyſician, more eſpecially for the theoretic part, ſhall he be cenſured for having a taſte for poetry? an art, in which he is as much diſtinguiſhed and admired for his judgment, as in philoſophy and phyſic. Were the poems of Mr. Van Royen ever looked upon with an eye of contempt? Is not the poem of the late Mr. Hebenſtreit univerſally admired? The two laſt-mentioned ſons of Apollo were illuſtrious profeſſors; and are they leſs illuſtrious phyſicians, for having favoured the public with their pleaſing poems?

feſſedly calculated for recreation, prove an impediment to its being received by the gay and polite? Nay, may not the very language of the faculty be objected to the author, conſidering how prone we are, according to the facetious French ſatyriſt, to prate about our own hobby-horſes?

N'entend-on point, à tout propos,
L'amant parler de ſa maîtreſſe;
Le bel-eſprit, de ſes bons mots;
Le ſçavant, de l'antique Gréce;
Le ſpagirique, de métaux;
Le gourmet, de vins de côteaux;
Le dévot, de ſainte lieſſe;
Le petit maitre, de cadeaux;
Le hobereau, de ſa nobleſſe;
Scanarelle, de ſes fagots,
Et le guerrier, de ſa proueſſe.

"For the generality, you'll find, ſays he, that "the lover embraces every opportunity of ex- "patiating on the perfections of his miſtreſs: "the wit is for ever introducing his ſhrewd "jokes, and ſmart repartees; the grave "hiſtorian is full of the antiquities of Greece; "the natural philoſopher, of his foſſils; the "vintner, of his richeſt wines; the de- "votee, of the beatific viſion; the court- "libertine, of his gallantries, and expen- "ſive entertainments of the ladies; the "ſportſman, of his hounds and horſes; the

"country

" country 'ſquire, of his genealogy; and the " ſoldier, of his heroic atchievements*."

And thus the phyſician, with his *Materia Medica*, and cant peculiar to the faculty, cannot fail, ſays our candid objector, of being exceedingly pleaſant and amuſing! The attempt, ſays a ſurly critic, is perfectly prepoſterous! it is abſurd! it is out of character!

In order to obviate the force of this objection, hear with patience what I have to urge in my own favour.

In the firſt place, I muſt ingenuouſly acknowledge, that the ſubſequent amuſements will be couched, in ſome meaſure, in the language of the phyſician and patient, as they in part conſiſt of advice and preſcriptions; yet this ſurely is pardonable, ſince they occur as ſeldom as poſſible, and are much leſs frequent than they are actually introduced upon the ſpot: every one, who is converſant with the courſe of life peculiar to the Spa, is highly ſenſible, that the language, which would give diſguſt in any other place, is there, on

* Theſe verſes are extracted from a little burleſque poem. We have ventured to add a poetical paraphraſe.

" The amorous young bard ſings of Sylvia's bright charms,
" And the ſoldier dwells long on his vaſt feats in arms:
" The vintner talks big of his ſtores of rich wine,
" And the bigot is full of his raptures divine:
" The rich country 'ſquire, and my lord, and his grace,
" Chat of nothing but horſes, and hounds, and the chace:
" The graceleſs court-rake boaſts of fifty amours,
" And the quack, of his hundred incurable cures.

on the contrary, conſidered as entertaining, and, on account of its ſingularity, perhaps deemed polite, and even a proper amuſement, as it naturally diſpoſes the minds of invalids to conſole each other on their mutual diſorders, and to offer each other their friendly advice, and the moſt proper meaſures to be purſued for procuring immediate relief in the particular maladies which they reſpectively labour under. Were the long and circumſtantial details, which thoſe patients reciprocally give each other of the vapours, obſtructions, and the hyp, to be entirely aboliſhed; was all the diſcourſe, which is there ſo familiarly held, in regard to the paſſage and operation of the water, to be totally rejected and diſapproved; was there no mention to be made of the choice of fountains, of the reſpective qualities or virtues of the ſeveral ſprings; not a word to be ſpoken with reſpect to the medicines which either ought, or ought not, to accompany the uſe of them; or to the proper regimen to be obſerved during the taking of them;—in a word, was there no notice to be taken of the direct contradictions, or the fantaſtic and ſingular ideas which ſome people entertain, and peremptorily aſſert and determine, relative to caſes perfectly out of their ſphere; I will poſitively affirm, that one fourth part, at leaſt, of the converſation which is peculiar to the Spa, muſt be totally exploded

exploded and deſtroyed. Now, what a crowd of imaginary patients ſhould we have in downright deſpair, were there no perſons upon the ſpot to liſten to their complaints! The viſiters in general are their confidents; the whole company, in a word, are, in ſome degree, either auditors, or complainants; perſons of faſhion take a pride in being ill at eaſe; and each invalid ſympathiſes with his neighbour. This reciprocal compaſſion gives both parties heart and courage; and every one is ſenſible how far conſolation and encouragement will go, what influence and effect they both jointly will have, towards the recovery of health, be the loſs of it either real, or the mere reſult of imagination.

Moreover, ſhould theſe Amuſements include in them ſome peculiar topics, which the generality of my readers may imagine more proper to proceed from the mouth of a ſtranger than a native of the country, (as it is highly probable many of them will) there is a way to ward off the inconvenience; and that is, to ſuppoſe the author of them to be a foreigner, and that I have only ſketched out upon the canvas the ideas which he furniſhed me with.

I think it further incumbent on me, to give my readers previous notice, that I ſhall not pretend to any great accuracy in point of method, or uniformity of ſtyle, in the proſecution of my undertaking. The title

itſelf, which promiſes nothing more than Amuſement, entirely clears me from theſe obligations. In order to amuſe, there is an abſolute neceſſity for variety, not only with reſpect to the ſubject-matter, but the manner likewiſe of recommending it to the public: it is no way requiſite, that one thought ſhould be the immediate conſequence of another; or that the method ſhould be regular, becauſe that implies a ſort of conſtraint. In a treatiſe of amuſement, every branch of it ſhould appear with eaſe and freedom; for which reaſon the reader is not to be ſurpriſed, if he finds ſome parts of this treatiſe digeſted by way of familiar dialogue, and other parts, again, by way of narration; in a word, if I have formed my ſentiments in ſuch different modes as beſt ſuited my own convenience, and particular views.

However, if this treatiſe after all ſhould not abound with rhetorical flouriſhes; if I have omitted to introduce ſo many agreeable relations as I might have done, yet I dare boldly aſſert, that I have related matters of fact with the utmoſt impartiality and preciſeneſs: and notwithſtanding my title is *Amuſements*, my principal aim is to inſtruct my readers in the moſt eaſy manner imaginable. To accompliſh this end, I have pointed out many of the ways and means that are now moſt in vogue for purſuing the diverſions of the Spa,

Spa, which vary according to accidental occurrences, and different companies that reſort hither at ſpring and fall.

In ſhort, if the candid reader reaps any benefit from theſe New Amuſements, or meets with entertainment in the reading of them, I ſhall have juſt grounds to ſit down contented with the pains I have taken; if, on the contrary, the opinion is, that I have not ſucceeded in my attempt, I ſhall at leaſt have the mortification to hear that ſome of my readers have ſpent a few leiſure hours more than they could have wiſhed in the peruſal of it.

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*** *To prevent Impoſition, be careful to aſk for* OWEN'S *Water-Warehouſe; and always have a Bill and Receipt ſigned by* W. Owen. *This Caution is become very neceſſary, as large Quantities of* Bru *Water are ſold at a low Price, for the true* Pouhon Spa *Water, to the frequent Diſappointment of the Phyſicians and their Patients.*

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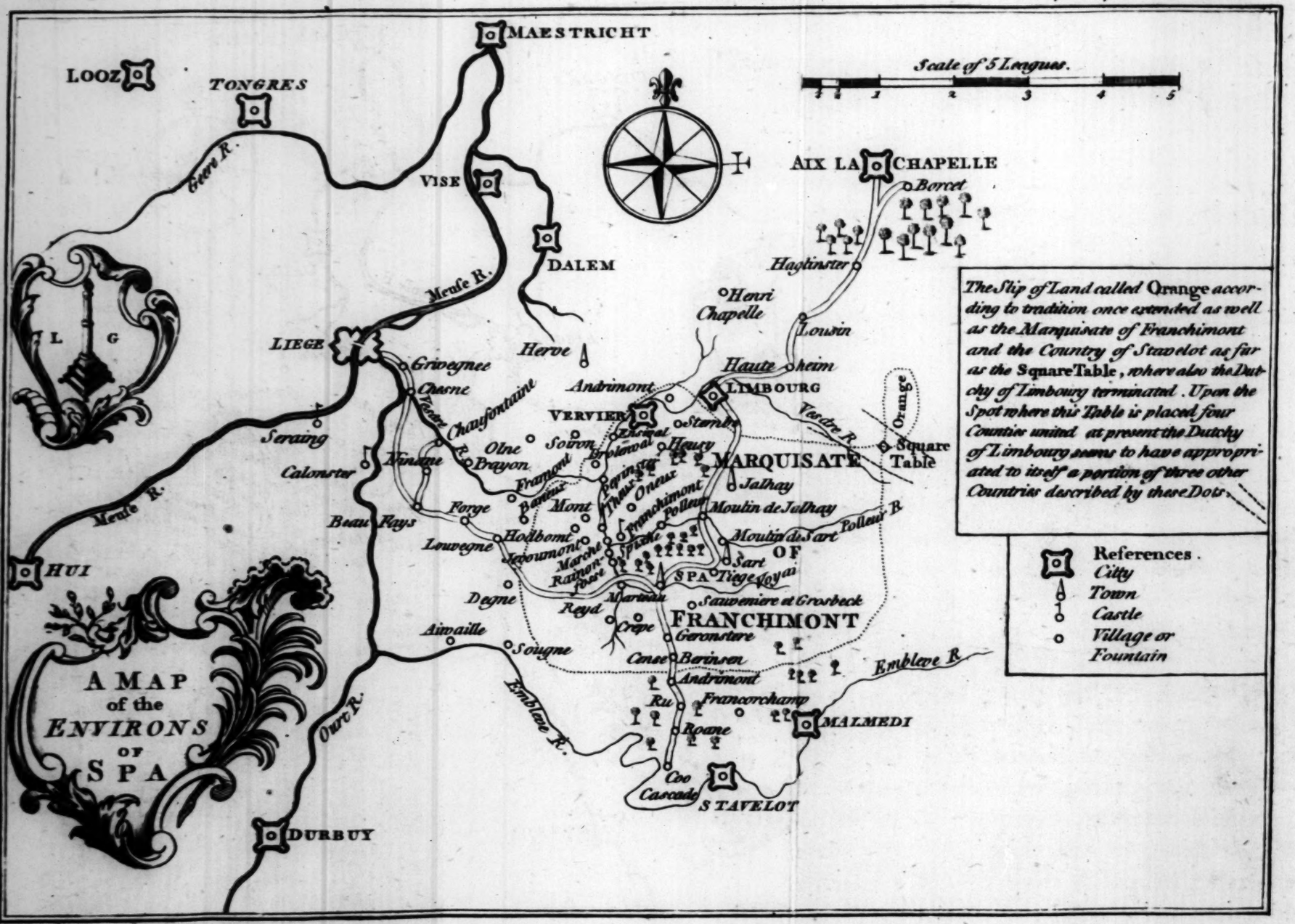
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Castle
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CHAP. I.

On the Motives that induce Numbers of both Sexes, and all Ranks and Degrees, to reſort to the Spa. *On the agreeable Way of Life which every body leads there. And of the various Roads to be paſſed through, in order to arrive at that Place of general Rendezvous.*

THERE are many, indeed, who frequent theſe mineral waters for the recovery of their health; but a great many more, with no other view than to amuſe themſelves. Some put a deal of faith and confidence in the virtues of theſe waters for which they are ſo univerſally recommended; while others, with an air of contempt, place no manner of faith in them. The different ways of thinking upon the ſubject, and the converſations

that are held there upon their peculiar qualities, either in jeſt or in earneſt, may be beſt expreſſed by a formal conference upon ſo important a topic.

I underſtand, ſays the Count to the Chevalier, that the phyſicians have adviſed you to drink the waters; and I imagine, was I to conſult them, they would give me the ſame inſtructions. I find my health in a tottering condition; and yet I can give no regular deſcription of my diſorder: I plainly perceive, however, that I am in a bad way; and as the Spa waters are infallible remedies for all diſeaſes, but more eſpecially ſuch as puzzle the doctors, they'll doubtleſs anſwer my purpoſe, with the addition of a little good company. I underſtand, the good lady, your ſiſter, is to make one of us very ſhortly.

Chev. I am in great hopes ſhe will. And I flatter myſelf the Counſellor will be ſo obliging as to join us. I doubt not but you'll be as glad of his company as of our's. He is an adept in natural philoſophy; and, as he has been upon the ſpot for ſeveral ſeaſons ſucceſſively, he muſt needs be well acquainted with the cuſtoms of the place. I doubt, Sir, however, you carry the point purpoſely too far, by your aſſertion that theſe waters are certain cures for all diſtempers; which, if I apprehend your meaning aright, amounts to little leſs than that they are good for nothing. What ſay you, Mr. Counſellor?

Counſ. Without taking any advantage of the Chevalier's compliment, I can aſſure you, Monſ.

Le

Le Compte, that notwithſtanding ſome people are too laviſh of their encomiums on theſe mineral waters, yet they have, indiſputably, moſt excellent and real virtues. There is ſcarce any one perſon, who reſides at the Spa for any conſiderable time, but is an eye-witneſs of the great cures which they perform.

Count. I ſincerely believe what you aſſert to be fact. You would very much oblige us, my dear Counſellor, if you would give us your impartial ſentiments on this medical arcanum. Be bold, my dear friend, and diſplay, with all the rhetoric you are maſter of, the peculiar virtues of theſe mineral waters.

Counſ. That's a ſubject, Sir, which I ſhould be very cautious how I pleaded upon. I am firmly perſuaded, however, that when you have once, Sir, been an eye-witneſs of their extraordinary effects, your preſent prejudices will ſoon be removed, and you'll entertain a more favourable opinion of their intrinſic merit: and is it to be imagined, Sir, that they could poſſibly have ſupported their credit for ſeveral ages paſt, if the wondrous effects of them, which are viſible almoſt every day, were nothing but mere chimeras, and the reſult only of a warm imagination?

Count. They have extraordinary qualities, beyond all diſpute. They waſh; they dilute; they paſs. They have their natural virtues, as waters; they may very juſtly ſtand at leaſt upon a level with common water; and how many authors of very great authority have we, who are as great in

their encomiums on common water, as they are of any mineral waters whatſoever *! Beſides, the contraſt of all theſe waters, and the various eulogiums which are given of each in particular, is ſcarce any impediment or obſtruction to the uſe of any. To ſee the prodigious number of mineral waters of all kinds that are now in vogue throughout all Europe, and one for ever preferable to the other, according to the different ideas or intereſts of their reſpective panegyriſts; to hear the different deſcriptions and encomiums beſtowed upon ſome, at the expence, and prejudice, or diſeſteem of others; would not any one imagine, that he was hearkening to the harangues of a ſet of quacks, who call the particular waters, which they eſpouſe, the Fountain of Health; each uſing his utmoſt endeavours to depretiate his rivals?—How is it poſſible to paſs a judgment between ſuch a number of wells, when each is boaſted to be incomparably better, and preferable to all the reſt? Believe me, Sir, thoſe waters are the beſt, which are accompanied with proper amuſements: and in that particular, 'tis highly probable, that the Spa waters have got the ſtart; and in that good quality, doubtleſs, their principal virtue conſiſts.

Counſ. There is no doubt to be made, Sir, but that ſome certain views of private intereſt have ſo biaſſed and prejudiced ſome phyſicians, as to be perfectly extravagant and laviſh beyond reaſon in their

* Particularly the great Dr. Hoffman, in *An Eſſay on the Nature and Properties of Water; proving it to be an univerſal Medicine.* Lond. 1761. Price 1s.

their eulogiums of ſuch waters as are peculiar to their own country; and thoſe of the Spa have had their patrons and protectors at all times, and amongſt all nations: and both the one and the other have unanimouſly agreed to acknowledge their ſuperior merit. But here I ſhall purpoſely avoid ſpeaking for a while on the cauſe of their virtues. Abundance of people, 'tis true, aim at nothing but amuſement; and the amuſements of the Spa are ſo numerous, that they long ſince furniſhed out matter for the publication of two volumes, reprinted ſeveral times both in quarto and in twelves. Thus the facetious author, who, in his compoſition, diſcovered both a good taſte, and abundance of diſcernment, ſcrupled not to aſſert, that if one may form a judgment of other people's pleaſures by one's own, there are few places throughout all Europe, where a man, in fine weather, can ſpend his time more agreeably than at the Spa.

Count. From what you have ſaid, I am more ſolicitous now, than ever, to partake of the amuſements of that celebrated rendezvous. I now can eaſily conceive, that the place you ſpeak of reunites, or reconciles the charms of the country with the pleaſures of a mixt converſation, much better than any other place in the univerſe; and that this compound object furniſhes our minds with ſomewhat highly agreeable upon every topic, wherewith they can poſſibly be entertained.

Chev. I muſt confeſs, Sir, conſidering the ſhort compaſs of time that I ſpent there the laſt ſeaſon,

I thought I met with all the rural amuſements, and all the pleaſures of converſation, that could poſſibly be conceived. There a man is in the country, the city, and at court, all at one and the ſame time: but what is ſtill more engaging than all the reſt is, one lives there with all the eaſe and freedom imaginable, and above that conſtraint and thoſe formalities, which are indiſpenſibly requiſite to be obſerved in all other places: but what is ſtill more agreeable to myſelf, and I am apt to believe to the Counſellor likewiſe, is the great hopes we entertain of procuring a perfect cure of thoſe maladies we reſpectively labour under; and that too in the moſt agreeable manner. The Count, indeed, who puts no great faith or confidence in the virtues of ſo natural a remedy as the mineral waters, and makes no great diſtinction between them and his own pump-water, will reſide there, however, for amuſement ſake, as thouſands of other people do; the pleaſure of his good company will make the drinking of our waters more agreeable than otherwiſe they would do, and render them, perhaps, by that means ſo much the more ſucceſsful.

Count. According to the various informations that I have received, the bad roads, and the mountains which ſurround the Spa on all ſides, render the acceſs to it not only difficult, but dangerous; and if ſo, one purchaſes dear enough the pleaſures of the place.

Counſ. In all probability, the reports which have been made you may have been exaggerated; but

but it muſt be confeſſed, that the paſſage is tireſome and tedious enough. The mountains hide your proſpect; at leaſt, till you almoſt arrive at your journey's end. And as the ground you go over is full of ſtones, and in ſome places ſteep and uneven, this muſt of neceſſity make the road bad; eſpecially on one ſide of Liege, which is about ſix leagues off; and whether you go on that ſide of Liege, or whether you go on one ſide of Aix-la-chapelle, you are indiſpenſibly obliged to travel over deſerts, which are not only uncultivated, but prodigiouſly ſtony.

Count. 'Tis very evident, that, in this country, they have no notion of grubbing up the ground, in order to convert it into arable or paſture; or at leaſt into woods, which would, in time, prove a conſiderable revenue to the country; and though 'tis but poorly ſtocked either with corn or cattle, yet, by a multiplicity of foreſts, it might furniſh very advantageouſly with fewel, the wholeſale dealers in woollen cloth, or thoſe who make uſe of furnaces for heating of iron; of which profeſſions there are numbers of people in the parts adjacent: but I beg your pardon for breaking in upon your diſcourſe. Pray oblige us with a deſcription of the avenues to the Spa, and the peculiarities of that road-way.

Counſ. As induſtrious as the inhabitants of the country may poſſibly be, and though they are naturally large dealers, and attentive enough to their reſpective intereſts, they have hitherto been too indolent and remiſs with reſpect to the improvement of their country; or rather, the power or

force of prejudice has made them negligent of ſome ſhifts, or remedies, to which moſt people are apt to have immediate recourſe in all other places.—But to return to our account of the roads.

The impetuous rains and violent hurricanes, that frequently happen in this country, make the ground and ſtones ſhrink and give way, to that degree, that the roads are almoſt impaſſable during the winter-ſeaſon, and are indiſpenſibly obliged to be repaired every ſummer: however, if the roads are ſomewhat incommodious to their carriages or machines, the mountains, through which thoſe paſſages are cut, afford the traveller, at a diſtance, a very pleaſing proſpect.

Theſe rough-hewn, unpoliſhed rocks, intermixt with a great variety of ſtately oaks and humble ſhrubs, ſtrike the eye of every curious traveller, who has any adequate idea of a beautiful landſcape. For my own part, the very firſt time that I travelled that road, I ordered my coachman to halt at ſeveral places, in order to look about me for a few minutes, and make my obſervations on the agreeable proſpects which the ſtreights, or narrow paſſages that were cut through the mountains, preſented themſelves at a diſtance to my eye, time after time: I was very agreeably ſurpriſed to find, that an uncultivated ſpot of ground, with no other covering than a worthleſs, pitiful ſtock of broom or heath, ſhould ſo delightfully delude my eye, as to appear afar off like a charming, verdant graſs-plat, the enamel whereof,

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and its odd, fantaſtic knots, or compartments, amuſed me beyond meaſure: and I was equally ſurpriſed afterwards, to find, that the gay illuſion which had ſo charmed me, when I came nearer to it, proved nothing more than a craggy and ſhocking rock: and this variety of pleaſing deluſions occur frequently in a trip to the Spa.

Though the real objects, 'tis true, are ſimple, and deſpicable in themſelves, yet the oddneſs and whimſical appearance they make, are matters of real amuſement, eſpecially to ſuch travellers as have been accuſtomed to an open and champaign ground.

The nearer you arrive towards the Spa, the worſe the roads are; and in ſome places they are diſagreeably ſteep, and conſequently dangerous.

The declivity, or deſcent of theſe roads, thus cut through the rocks, is ſo rugged and uneven, eſpecially when you come near the town, and are driving down into a little village, about half a league, or leſs, from the Spa, called Marteau, that ſuch coachmen as are not perfect maſters of their buſineſs, or ſuch as are unacquainted with the nature of the place, can ſcarce reach the bottom of the hill without meeting with ſome diſaſter.

The natives, however, are more careful and curious at preſent, than they were ſome few years ago, in regard to the reparation of their roads, which is attended with a very conſiderable expence, and a diſburſement to be conſtantly repeated every year.

Count. Are there no ways or means, Sir, think you, to be found out, for avoiding that dangerous hill, by winding a little on one ſide of it?

Counſ. The roads, Sir, are very rough and uneven, travel into what part of the country you pleaſe; which tempts me to imagine, that Nature was determined to ſet a more than ordinary value on the bleſſings ſhe beſtows here, by the difficulty that attends the enjoyment of them. If art, however, in conjunction with the policy of the government, would but lend nature an aſſiſting hand, it would be an eaſy matter to turn the road another way: by that contrivance, the whole hill, and its uneven, rugged and dangerous declivity, might be totally avoided; and to accompliſh this, the road might be made only to turn a little to the left, as they leave the town of Louvegné. As the ſtates of the country have undertaken to throw up a cauſey, or high-way, from Liege, which is already carried into execution as far as the Forges, an inn, ſo called from the ſign, ſituate in the centre, and therefore termed the half-way houſe between Liege and the Spa; from thence it might be contrived to paſs through the village of Theux, and after that, it might be carried up as far as Marteau, which could not, I imagine, be attended with any very burdenſome expence. You may ſee by the map hereto annexed, the ſituation, the roads, and the diſtances of divers places from it, which I have above mentioned, and other places that are the moſt remarkable in the environs, or parts adjacent. As

all concerns of this public nature go on but very ſlowly in this country, 'tis much to be feared, that it will be ſome conſiderable time before this project, we are now talking of, will be carried into execution.

Count. 'Tis highly requiſite, however, that we ſhould conform ourſelves to the ſtate of things as they now ſtand. But, before we enter upon our intended journey, be ſo kind, Sir, as to tell us, if there are any good and commodious inns upon the road, and on the very ſpot; for I have heard ſuch accounts of it, as that I am ſomewhat jealous in regard to ſo neceſſary an article. Some, indeed, have ſpoken of the Spa as an exceeding agreeable place, and ſet it in the faireſt and moſt advantageous point of light; but others again have given it a character directly the reverſe; nay, I have heard it deſcribed as a mean pitiful hamlet, or village, where there is ſcarce a good creditable houſe to be met with in it; and where, if you are at a loſs for even common conveniencies, you muſt have recourſe to the parts adjacent.

Chev. I have heard, myſelf, ſeveral harp upon the ſame ſtring. About three years ago, I remember, I was at Aix-la-chapelle, and juſt upon the point of ſetting out for the Spa, with a party of pleaſure; but our landlord there gave us ſuch a ſhocking and diſadvantageous deſcription of the place, and added thereto ſuch a frightful account of the roads leading to it, that we came to a reſolution, *nem. con.* through his perſuaſion,

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to ſtay where we were, and drink the waters (with which he was plentifully ſupplied) at his houſe; and we were the rather induced to follow his advice, becauſe there was a ſurgeon belonging to the army, at that time, a lodger at the ſame inn, but doubtleſs a partial crony of the landlord's, who aſſured us, upon his honour, that thoſe waters never loſt any of their virtues through their tranſportation to any place, how diſtant ſoever, and that they would have the very ſame effect at Aix-la-chapelle, as at the wells themſelves.

Counſ. You ſee, gentlemen, how far artifice and addreſs will carry people, in order, as the proverb has it, to bring griſt to their own mill. When I was there myſelf, I met with ſome facetious perſons, who carried the joke to a ſtill higher pitch than the Chevalier's ſurgeon, and with an air of the utmoſt aſſurance peremptorily aſſerted, that the tranſportation of thoſe mineral waters from the Spa to Aix-la-chapelle, only made the too numerous and too active particles fly off, and by that means diveſted them of their bad qualities, without the leaſt diminution or variation of their innate virtues. Such weak and partial remarks, however, are altogether unworthy of any farther notice, and ought to be treated with contempt, as being the mere effects either of ſordid avarice, or the reſult of aſſurance, without common underſtanding.

As to the roads leading to the Spa, it muſt be allowed, that, though they are none of the beſt,

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yet they are far from being ſo rugged, frightful, or dangerous, as ſome partial and prejudiced perſons think it their intereſt to repreſent them: with a little prudent care and precaution of your driver, or coachman, you may reach your journey's end, either by the road that runs on one ſide of Liege, or on that of Aix-la-chapelle, without any great riſque of being much incommoded. The prodigious number of perſons of high rank and diſtinction; nay, of ſuch perſons as are even nice, or ever ſo much out of order, who pay their annual viſits there, demonſtrate, beyond all contradiction, that they are frightful and diſcouraging to no people, but ſuch as are too timorous, and delicate to an affectation. Thus, in ſuch chronical caſes, where the drinking the waters is judged abſolutely neceſſary, no motive, or argument, is ſufficiently cogent to prevent people from frequenting the wells themſelves, where, doubtleſs, the waters are in their utmoſt purity and perfection.

As to thoſe articles which are relative to your procuring commodious lodgings, and forming an adequate idea of the manner of life which ſtrangers and foreigners lead at the Spa, I ſhall digeſt my inſtructions for your ſervice in thoſe particulars, by way of hints or memorandums: for I imagine, that an abſtract of all the various articles, that have any relation to the circumſtances of the place, or the methods obſerved by ſtrangers, who are tempted, through the agreeableneſs of the ſeaſon, to live and reſide there for a few weeks, would make ſuch an intereſting collection of facts,

facts, as would be worth my while to throw into ſome order upon a few looſe ſheets of paper; but be that as it might, I thought it would ſerve myſelf, at leaſt, for an amuſement on my firſt arrival, in the ſpring. To which notes, or hints, I have added ſome farther remarks, which I found highly requiſite, on my ſecond viſit in autumn, to be inſerted by way of improvement. In my deſcription of theſe particulars, I determined to obſerve the ſame method as I did when I arrived there firſt, and was a perfect novice, which proved ſurpriſingly pleaſing. My memoirs, gentlemen, are at your ſervice, to read what you think proper, to prepare you for your intended viſit to that celebrated rendezvous. Here, gentlemen, are my firſt remarks, or memorandums, which principally conſiſt of inſtructions, on your firſt arrival, how to find out proper apartments for your reception, and to furniſh you with other requiſites during your reſidence on ſo delightful a ſpot.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

On the firſt Steps neceſſary to be taken on the Arrival at Spa.

THE mountains, or high hills, with which the Spa is ſurrounded on every ſide, prevent your having any diſtant proſpect of the place: when you are within about half a league in the Liege road, you have every now and then a glimpſe of it, indeed, but then that tranſient view is immediately loſt again, through the ſituation of the mountains; but if you take the road from Aix-la-chapelle, you have ſcarce any proſpect at all of it, till you are juſt upon the ſpot; and that is, from the top of the hill, down which you deſcend into the old town. 'Tis on this hill, that you have the moſt commodious view of it. There, on one ſide of the road, near a large croſs, which is fixt up in the walks that are cut out of the hill, you have it in full view; that is to ſay, on the north-eaſt ſide of the Spa, from whence I took the plan of it hereto annexed.

The entrance into Spa, upon the Liege road, is not near ſo ſteep, or uneven, as that from Aix-la-chapelle. The deſcent of it is gradual and eaſy from the back-gate, called the Liege-gate, till you reach the bottom of one part of the town, which preſents nothing to your view, indeed, that is any ways agreeable: there you

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ſcarce ſee any houſe, but what has a mean, pitiful aſpect, built with nothing but wood, and other rubbiſh. This part of the Spa is called the Old Town, and doubtleſs is no very promiſing proſpect of a ſpot that is ſo very remarkable, and ſo celebrated for a prodigious concourſe of the moſt brilliant aſſembly of the firſt quality that reſort thither during each ſeaſon: however, before you arrive at the new town, you have a view of the pariſh-church, and of the convent of the Capuchins, each ſtanding upon an eminence; and between them you have a ſight of the Seven-o'clock walk; which begin to give you ſome better, or more favourable idea of the place, and evidently demonſtrate, that this part of the town is not ſo wretchedly built, or ſo void of agreeable apartments, as a ſtranger might at firſt be induced to imagine.

By this tranſient account of the Spa, 'tis manifeſt, that 'tis ſituate in the bottom of a vale, and ſtands in the direction of almoſt a parallel line to the mountain, or hill, that bounds it on the north ſide: it is croſſed all along by a little running ſtream, in which there are frequently caught great plenty of the fineſt trout and lobſters that one could wiſh to partake of.

This ſpot is ſo ſurrounded with hills on every ſide, and ſo cloſely concealed, or ſhut up, on the north ſide only excepted, that to pry into its ſituation, one would be apt to ſay, that Nature has been ſo jealous, as it were, of her ſalutary treaſures, which are there depoſited, that ſhe has exhauſted

exhauſted her ſtrength in fortifying the avenues to them; or that the bleſſings, of which ſhe is ſo laviſh there, ſhould never be purchaſed without difficulty and fatigue; which ſtill enhances their value, and gives a double reliſh to the enjoyment of them. In ſhort, on which ſide ſoever people approach this delectable ſpot, the generality of its viſiters chuſe frequently to alight, and walk gently down the hill, rather than ſtand the ſmart ſhocks that naturally attend a very ſteep deſcent.

No ſooner do the inhabitants hear a chariot, or any other machine, come rumbling down the town, but there are numbers always at hand, to give notice of its arrival; and 'tis immediately ſurrounded by different ſpectators; ſome, in order to offer you their ſervice and aſſiſtance, in hopes of being employed; others, to obſerve only, and inform themſelves of the quality, or diſtinction of ſuch new-comers; for as far as I can find, the people there, in general, are very curious; inſomuch that, to ſee what crowds will flock round a ſtranger at his firſt coming, one would be apt to ſay, they ſee but very ſeldom any travellers at all.

If the common people are thus apt to hover round any private perſons, they are much more numerous, and have quite different views upon the firſt arrival of any perſon of high diſtinction.

The arrival of princes, belonging to any royal family, is made public, and ſo, indeed, are their departures, by a diſcharge of ſeveral cannon, or ſmall

ſmall pieces of artillery, which are fired off upon the top of the hill. Some of theſe guns are about 250 pound weight, and the others gradually diminiſh. The report of them, which is repeated by the echoes from the adjacent hills, for the generality, have a very good effect.

The uſe of this ſmall artillery, on ſuch public occaſions, firſt commenced in the year 1759: then they were firſt purchaſed, and diſcharged for the firſt time, upon the arrival, not only of his moſt ſerene highneſs the prince biſhop of Augſbourg, but of his moſt ſerene highneſs the late electoral prince of Cologne; that prince being then determined to drink the mineral waters upon the ſpot, having reſided there for three days only the year preceding; his electoral highneſs having acknowledged, that he was then impoſed upon by a falſe and ſelf-intereſted repreſentation, that there were no proper apartments at the Spa, for the reception of his highneſs and his retinue; and that his highneſs might be ſupplied with thoſe mineral waters at Bonn, where they loſt none of their innate virtues by their tranſportation; but were as ſalutary, in all reſpects, as if drank at the fountain-head.

When I came firſt to the Spa, I furniſhed myſelf with proper lodgings at the inn called the Court of London (from the ſign) which is one of the beſt public houſes in the whole place, ſituate in the High-ſtreet, directly over againſt the mineral well of Pouhon; but the two ſucceſſive ſea-

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ſons afterwards, as I went with a party of pleaſure, we hired a private houſe to ourſelves.

There are three peculiar and different ways of lodging, as well as living at the Spa.

Thoſe perſons who reſort thither, either alone, or in ſmall companies, with but a ſlender retinue, and very little baggage or incumbrance, lodge, for the generality, at the public inns. There are four devoted to the ſervice of one particular rank or degree of viſitors; and thoſe are diſtinguiſhed by their different ſigns. The firſt is called *The Arms of England*; the ſecond *The Court of London*; the third *The Grand Monarque*, or the King of France's Head; and the laſt, *The Crown of Thorns*. In all of them there is attendance ſufficient, and a more plentiful larder, or ſupply of all ſorts of proviſions, than is reaſonably requiſite; conſidering that their tables, or ordinaries, are principally intended for the reception of ſuch perſons as are ſuppoſed to frequent thoſe houſes for the recovery of their health, and to live by rule, in order that the waters may meet with the deſired ſucceſs.

The ſecond manner, or method of lodging at the Spa, is this: the princes, the quality of the firſt rank, and thoſe, in general, who propoſe to keep their table there; thoſe who are deſirous of living in a family-way, or with a ſelect number of friends; thoſe who chuſe to live in a private manner, and have a table furniſhed to their own peculiar taſte, either in the politeſt and moſt affluent

affluent manner, or conſiſtent with the rules of good oeconomy and health; all perſons, in ſhort, of this rank and degree, chuſe for the generality to hire either an hôtel, or kind of manſion-houſe, of which ſort there are abundance to be met with at the Spa: there are apartments to be let, proportioned to the retinue, or to the taſte of all perſons of any diſtinction whatſoever; and there is not a year paſſes, but there is ſome ſort of an improvement made or other, through the induſtry and care of the inhabitants, who voluntarily lay out ſome part of the income, or produce of the ſeaſons, in proper repairs, and ſuch new furniture as they can afford, in order to render their reſpective apartments agreeable and commodious. The landlords there part with every convenience that is required of them; they'll let even their kitchen furniture, their very tubs and barrels, and all ſorts of linen; and they will withdraw themſelves into other quarters.

And as the inhabitants of the place are very officious, honeſt, and obliging to all ſtrangers, they are always ready to go of any errands, and do any other petty ſervices, that they are capable of, either by themſelves or any of their ſervants, inſomuch that nobody grudges to make them ſome ſmall returns for their civility; becauſe they deport themſelves in as friendly and courteous a manner, as if you were actually one of their family.

There is a third method, or manner of living at the Spa. Such particular perſons, as entertain

a kind of an averſion to the hurry and buſtle of an inn, and would not incumber themſelves with keeping a table, hire private lodgings at a common tradeſman's houſe, and board with them: others chuſe to ſend for their proviſions from the cooks, or from ſome adjacent inn. This private way of marketing, however, is ſomewhat more expenſive than dining almoſt at any public inn; which method moſt people chuſe, in order to amuſe themſelves, and pick up freſh acquaintance, and indulge themſelves in a variety of different converſations; as, at ſuch places, they have different companies dine with them almoſt every day.

The particular houſes which receive company with the moſt numerous retinue, are *The Hôtel de Lorraine*, *The Cornet*, or Standard, and *The Golden Fountain*.

The firſt two are ſituate in the High-ſtreet, and very handſomely furniſhed. Every apartment is covered with tapeſtry hangings.

That of *The Cornet* is a very ſpacious houſe; they can make twenty-eight beds every night; and in caſe they have a call for any more, they have a houſe ready, joining to it, diſtinguiſhed by the ſign of the Wolf, which, with divers other private houſes, all contiguous to each other, was added to it, in the year 1759, for the reception of the numerous retinue of his late moſt ſerene highneſs the elector of Cologne, who then reſided himſelf at the Cornet.

The

The *Hôtel de Lorraine* has a fine front, though accompanied with a ſtriking defect; I mean that of two large gates quite cloſe to each other: one of which, however, is never thrown open, and of no other uſe than to preſerve a ſort of ſymmetry and proportion. However, within, the apartments are well diſpoſed and very commodious. His ſerene highneſs the prince biſhop of Augſbourg occupied that particular hôtel five ſeaſons ſucceſſively; that is to ſay, in the year 1756, to 1760 incluſive.

As to *The Golden Fountain*, 'tis ſituate at ſome ſmall diſtance from the ſpot. This formerly was looked upon as the principal houſe in the place: amongſt others, 'tis that which his moſt ſerene and eminent highneſs, the biſhop and prince of Liege, occupied ſeveral ſeaſons, whilſt he reſided at the Spa.

The decorations, however, of the two firſt-mentioned hôtels, and their ſituation in the very centre of the town, have gained the preference; notwithſtanding the laſt contains a great variety of apartments, ſome of which are very ſpacious, and furniſhed very decently, but with leſs pomp and ſplendor than the other two.

There are divers other houſes very fit for the purpoſe, though not altogether ſo ſpacious; which have, nevertheleſs, been occupied by princes, or at leaſt by perſons of high diſtinction; as for inſtance, *The Lady Brixhes*, and *The Baths* or *Mill*; thoſe diſtinguiſhed by the ſeveral ſigns of

The

The Caſtle of Limbourg, *The Prince of Orange*, *The Dauphin*, *The Three Kings*, *The White Wether*, and *The King of England's Head*: there are ſtill others, very commodious, but not ſo proper for the reception of quality with a numerous retinue, or which are let out in diſtinct apartments. To drop this ſubject, it will be ſufficient to add only one remark more; there is ſcarce a conſtant inhabitant at the Spa, but endeavours to let his beſt apartments to ſtrangers during the ſeaſon; and that every foreigner may have choice of lodgings where he pleaſes.

When I paid my firſt viſit, as the motive that induced me to go to the Spa at that time was, to get rid of an indiſpoſition that I then laboured under, I prepared myſelf, in the firſt place, by going to the bagnios at Aix-la chapelle, where I reſided about a fortnight, according to the advice of my phyſician: from thence I went directly to the Spa; that is to ſay, at the latter end of July, when the company are in their utmoſt brilliancy, pride and glory: there I met at *The Court of London* divers perſons of the firſt diſtinction, that kept up a table of thirty covers, excluſive of all other particular tables: as it happened to be pretty late before I arrived there, I came to a reſolution with myſelf to ſee nobody that evening, eſpecially as I had been ſomewhat over fatigued with my journey, through the badneſs of the roads, the weather happening to prove tempeſtuous,

tempeſtuous, and the machine I travelled in very heavy, drawn by four poor, pitiful, broken-winded horſes, which ſtumbled upon the road, at leaſt twenty times during their paſſage; though that, indeed, is no novel caſe, when you hire carriages at Aix upon hazard, and without judgment. It may not be improper to remark here, that ſtrangers are better accommodated with proper vehicles at Liege, or at the Spa itſelf, than at Aix-la-chapelle: to this remark give me leave to add another no leſs uſeful and inſtructive; and that is, that the haſty and heavy rains, which ſometimes ſwell the little river, called the Polleur, which you are obliged to croſs near the mill at Jalhay, within two leagues of the Spa; the haſty rains, I ſay, ſometimes ſwell that little river to ſuch a degree, that it would be an act of imprudence, if not preſumption, to croſs it in ſuch bad weather as I did, with no ſmall fear and apparent danger.

Having determined to reſt myſelf after ſuch a fatiguing paſſage, I ſpent the evening, or rather part of the night, in procuring from my landlord and landlady the beſt informations I poſſibly could, in regard to the courſe of life that ſtrangers lead at the Spa, the general rules obſerved for the recovery of their healths, as alſo with reſpect to their aſſemblies, and other polite amuſements: and I had information, moreover, given me of all ſuch perſons as were then actually upon the ſpot.

This

This laſt article I was perfectly ſatisfied in, by virtue of a printed liſt, which I ſent for immediately. That liſt, it ſeems, is printed by a bookſeller of Liege, who attends conſtantly every ſeaſon, and keeps open ſhop at the Spa, almoſt oppoſite to *The Court of London*. The waiter brought it me in a few minutes, and I had the pleaſure of reading the names, not only of divers illuſtrious perſonages, of all nations throughout Europe; but likewiſe ſome of my old acquaintance; a few of whom, I found, lodged with me in the very ſame inn. Over-joyed at ſo happy an occurrence, I naturally made it my firſt buſineſs to pay them my ſincereſt reſpects, thereby promiſing myſelf no ſmall addition to my future amuſements.

Having procured theſe neceſſary and agreeable inſtructions, I gave orders for my ſupper, and withdrew to my own private apartment; and as I had ſeveral letters to diſpatch, I imagined I ſhould be the more expeditious, in order to ſit down at eaſe afterwards, and enjoy myſelf. Theſe letters, however, took up more time than I imagined, and the night was pretty far ſpent before I got to bed; but to make amends, I propoſed to indulge myſelf the next morning.

This ſcheme of mine demonſtrated, to a miracle, what a perfect novice I was in regard to the cuſtoms obſerved at the Spa; for though early in the morning, I was rouſed out of my ſleep by a confuſed noiſe, which ſtruck my ears from

every quarter. The people of the houſe were all up in arms; and in a minute, the confuſion ſeemed to be encreaſed in the ſtreet. I heard them opening the gates, and the windows. Some were laughing, others chattering, and ſome again running up ſtairs, and down again, as if it had been noon-day. To this confuſed buſtle, upon liſtening a little more attentively, I heard the neighing of horſes, and the rattle of machines.

I looked upon my watch, imagining I had over-ſlept myſelf, and that 'twas very late; when, to my no ſmall ſurpriſe, I found it was ſcarce five o'clock.

Thus diſturbed with ſuch a continued racket, at an hour which I thought too early for any people to be up, in a place which was wholly devoted to pleaſure and the recovery of their health, I imagined that there had been ſome caſual diſturbance in the town. I ſtruggled with myſelf for a few minutes between ſleeping and waking; but my reſtleſſneſs prevailed, and I jumpt out of bed directly; and as I lodged in the High-ſtreet, almoſt over againſt the Wells, when I opened my window, I found, to my no ſmall ſurpriſe, a multitude of people up; ſome buſy in drinking, and others walking about; and I plainly perceived likewiſe, that the number encreaſed every minute: I was extremely pleaſed, however, to ſee the gentry in ſuch a perpetual motion. The careleſs dreſs of the ladies had ſomething in it ſo gay and gallant, that I thought myſelf in a

new world, where every member ſeemed to have entertained an equal idea of pleaſure, and all ſeemed alike determined mutually to procure it. Thus there reigned, I perceived, a certain uniformity both in their dreſs and in their humour; all of them had either crutches, or canes, in their hands, and wore a kind of medal, which the men adjuſted on their coat-buttons, and the ladies either in their girdles, or dangling by their ſides. I imagined at firſt, that it might poſſibly be ſome whimſical order of diſtinction, invented as a mark or teſtimony of that conformity of humour, which ought to be preſerved and kept up by ſuch perſons, as thoſe mineral waters had aſſembled together in ſuch numbers. I underſtood, however, by a nearer view, that what I miſtook for medals, were a kind of dials, moſt of them neatly turned in ivory; ſome of them embelliſhed, or enriched with mother of pearl; but all of them with capital figures, from one to ſixteen or ſeventeen, engraved upon the plate, and an index, or hand, to point to thoſe figures, in order to aſcertain the number of glaſſes which they reſpectively had drank. One may eaſily form an idea of the many little tales, and the whimſical tittle-tattle, with which they entertain one another at theſe ſtated drinking-bouts.

The ſhort, though different devices, with which thoſe dials are adorned; ſome relative to intrigue and gallantry, others to the various virtues of the waters, and others again to ſome ſmart remarks on the way of life, and the cures performed

at the Spa; frequently furniſh the gentlemen and ladies with droll ſubjects for creating mirth, and the improvement of converſation. I ſpent ſome ſmall time in reflecting on theſe little innocent paſtimes, without attempting to dreſs myſelf, till I accidentally caſt my eye upon a particular friend, one of my intimate cronies, whom I had a ſtrong inclination to fly to, and pay my compliments of congratulation, upon the agreeable ſurpriſe of ſuch an interview beyond my expectations.

Upon this, I directly called for my valet, to dreſs me, in order to make my perſonal appearance at the Wells, and to partake of the pleaſures of the place.

I was preſently equipped in a proper manner; for by the careleſs dreſs of all thoſe whom I ſaw drinking the waters, I plainly perceived, that none then preſent made it their buſineſs or concern to appear in form: nay, I imagined that careleſs air, and unconcern, was a kind of cuſtomary mark, or memorandum, which thoſe who drank the waters for the recovery of their health generally practiſed, or at leaſt affected ſo to do.

No ſooner was I out of doors, but I met my friend, who was juſt entering the bookſeller's ſhop: I took him by the hand, and teſtified my peculiar felicity in having the company of a gentleman, whoſe converſation was at all times ſo agreeable, and would be more ſo now, as I was a perfect ſtranger to the country, and the cuſtoms of the place.

The

The bookſeller interrupted ſoon theſe friendly and familiar ſalutations, by aſking the favour of my name, the character I bore, and the particular place of my abode: this interruption, however, was very politely apologized for, by informing me, that the view he had in thoſe requeſts was, to inſert them in his liſt; and that it was cuſtomary to enter every individual perſon's name therein, who came to viſit the Spa, without the leaſt partiality or exception; as I had before been apprized, by the fragment of the liſt which I had ſeen the night before, and which convinced me of the truth of the fact; inſomuch, that I entered my name, without any heſitation, as I found many others had done before me, under the title of a Bobelin; a cant term, by which the gentry of the Spa are pleaſed to diſtinguiſh novices, or ſtrangers, who come there to drink the waters. The bookſeller offered me the whole number of ſheets of the liſt, that had been actually printed off; but I gave him to underſtand, that I was provided with the liſt to that time; but he ſhould ſupply me with the remainder of the ſheets, as they were gradually printed off: this piece of curioſity ſtood me only in five farthings a ſheet (French money). After this, he made me an offer to ſupply me with any books out of his ſhop, that I ſhould be inclined to read, at any time during my reſidence in the place, at the expence only of a crown. As I imagined, in ſuch a place as that was, there muſt neceſſarily occur ſome few leiſure hours, at leaſt almoſt every day, that might be improved, I

agreed with him, as I looked upon his demand both modeſt and reaſonable; for by that means I could fill up my vacant hours to advantage, and drive away the hyp, if I found myſelf in a melancholy mood; and the vapours, which are a kind of ſubtle poiſon, will overtake a man, and are the too natural effects of indolence and eaſe. Beſides, a book well wrote is at any time an agreeable paſtime, and will ſerve at leaſt to diverſify the amuſements of the place.

As ſoon as theſe trivial articles were ſettled and adjuſted, we took occaſion to diſcourſe on the various benefits and advantages that naturally attended ſuch a periodical publication of his liſt; and I obſerved, that it was apparently a moſt excellent contrivance, not only to maintain the pomp and ſplendor of the ſeaſons, but to give public notice, far and near, of all ſuch illuſtrious perſonages, and other gentlemen and ladies of diſtinction, whom the eſtabliſhed fame and reputation of theſe mineral waters aſſemble together in ſuch multitudes at the Spa. Our bookſeller, however, extended this point ſtill farther, and ſhewed all the advantages of his liſt in a much fairer and clearer light, but made an apology in form for his intruſion. This liſt or catalogue, it ſeems, was an invention of his own. His firſt publication of it was in the year 1752, and as he had procured the ſole privilege of printing it, (excluſive of the trade in general) he has continued the publication of it at the proper ſeaſons ever ſince. The contrivance and deſign of it,

it, as he farther told us, was to ſhew at one tranſient view, to all new viſiters, the company that ſhould be preſent at the Wells on their firſt arrival; and, on the other hand, to inform them of ſuch additional company, which they might ſee at once, by inſpecting his manuſcript copy of the names of all ſuch as daily arrived, before the reſpective ſheets were filled up, and ſent to the printer. There was ſtill another very important advantage, which he mentioned, attending this contrivance of his; namely, a ſpeedy delivery of the various letters that arrived there from foreign countries. He took care farther to convince us, that it was of ſingular ſervice in point of the choice of lodgings for ſuch as came thither unprovided, by bringing to their remembrance thoſe with whom they are perſonally acquainted, or by forming a juſt idea of the quality of thoſe who had occupied them, and were gone away. In ſhort, it ſeems ſomething ſtrange, that a ſubject, to all outward appearance, trivial and barren, ſhould include in it ſo many advantages extremely intereſting and important.

After this long digreſſion, my friend expreſſed the real joy he conceived at our unexpected meeting; and conducted me to a ſelect company, whom he had not long parted from, and was going directly to rejoin. Accordingly we went together to the fountain of Pouhon.

As ſoon as the elderly ladies, who, at that time, officiated as prieſteſſes to the goddeſs of the Spa, flocked round about me, to preſent me with

a glaſs of her ſalutary waters, I accepted of the courteous offer; but being in ſome doubt whether I ſhould drink them without ſome previous preparation, and being an abſolute novice, or ſtranger, to the uſe of thoſe mineral waters, beſides the diſorder that I laboured under, I was in ſome doubt, for a few moments, whether I ſhould drink the potion given me or not: but having viewed the glaſs well, and ſeeing my liquor as clear as rock-water, and tempting to the eye, not only on account of its tranſparency, but its ſparkling in the glaſs, I determined to take it without any farther heſitation. Its ſour and mineral, or vitriolous taſte, diſcouraged me at firſt, I muſt own; but not to ſeem leſs courageous than my neighbours, I fairly emptied my glaſs. No ſooner was it well down, but I found it began to revive my ſpirits, and make me perfectly eaſy and chearful; which is the uſual effect of it, eſpecially after having taken it for two or three days. When people are once accuſtomed to theſe mineral waters, the taſte of them is not only agreeable, but perfectly delicious, by virtue of that acidity, or ſtriking ſharpneſs, which tickles and gratifies the palate, much in the ſame manner as a glaſs of right champaign, which is perfectly cool and pleaſant.

One of thoſe elderly female attendants, or prieſteſſes of the Spa above mentioned, to whom my friend had recommended me, ſmiling, but after a polite manner, at the wry faces I made at the gulping down my firſt glaſs, offered me very complaiſantly

complaiſantly ſome ſmall quantity of orange-flowers candied, to remove that taſte, which ſhe perceived was in ſome meaſure diſagreeable and unpleaſant to me. I accepted of the compliment ſhe paid me.

I obſerved, that divers perſons made uſe of either ani-ſeed, or caraway-ſeed, candied; and ſome again, of Seville-orange peel preſerved; or ſweet-meats of the like harmleſs nature. From thence I took occaſion to look at the little boxes in which they kept theſe confits; and moſt of them, I found, were made of plain and ſimple bergamot; but there were others, that were painted with little Cupids, or other amorous ſubjects, with devices ſuitable to each occaſion: upon the ſight of ſome of them, I took the liberty to make a remark or two; and then obſerved, that I was ſurpriſed to ſee, not only the ladies, but ſeveral gentlemen, make uſe of ſweet-meats of one ſort or another after the drinking of each glaſs; ſince, in my humble opinion, they muſt of neceſſity alter, in ſome meaſure at leaſt, and give a check to the virtues of their water. To this objection it was immediately replied, that the ſmall quantity of ſugar, or ſweet-meats, there made uſe of, could not poſſibly have any material influence or effect on the waters, or obſtruct their operation. The generality of water-drinkers take nothing but a little of green aniſe, or juniper-berries, or a ſmall quantity of cardamum, without ſugar: to this it was added, that thoſe drugs, which were ſo

innocent and inoffenſive, ſo univerſally known, and frequently eat at table, or meal-times, as being agreeable to moſt people's palates, were ſo far from being any ways prejudicial, that they were uſeful, not only in removing that acidity which proved ſo diſguſtful to moſt, but were of ſingular ſervice in fortifying the ſtomach againſt their actual chilneſs and flatulent quality, and were, moreover, greatly aiding and aſſiſting in the paſſage of the waters with the greater freedom.

Some of the water-drinkers withdrew afterwards into a ſmall apartment on one ſide of the fountain, commonly called Pouhon-hall: 'tis a ſmall, though convenient room, without any other furniture, than a commodious fire-place, and a conſiderable number of chairs. In this apartment there is a large fire made, and kept up all the morning, to which every one is welcome to reſort, or walk about in the room, juſt as they ſee convenient, with all the freedom imaginable, as moſt do when they are either chilly, or when they are drove in by any caſual inclemency of the weather: every one, when tired, ſituates himſelf in what part of the room he thinks proper, and takes the firſt chair at hand, without the leaſt formal apology.

From thence the viſiters every now and then withdraw to little commodious apartments on each ſide of the room; one for the gentlemen and the other for the ladies: as I let no place paſs without ſome obſervance, I found they were appropriated

propriated to certain purpoſes as often as occaſion offered: for 'twas the general privilege of the place, I found, for every one to go out and in at pleaſure, without the leaſt ceremony or excuſe.

For my own part, as the weather was perfectly calm and ſerene, I aſked the few that were then preſent, if they were diſpoſed to take a little tour; with which requeſt they readily complied; and conducted me to a very pleaſant alley, which is there called the Grand Alley, or principal walk belonging to the well, on that ſide, where it is ſituate, directly over againſt another well of ſweet water; which being embelliſhed with a very fine ſtructure, and being likewiſe ſituate on the ſpot, has a very good effect there, as well as in the walk which it fronts.

This walk, which was firſt begun in the year 1751, is about thirty feet in breadth, and near four hundred in length; incluſive of a little elbow, at the upper end, occaſioned through want of judgment, when the plan was firſt propoſed: for it had been equally eaſy to have made it perfectly ſtrait from one end to the other; and then it would have ſtruck the eye much more agreeably in its utmoſt extent, as well on account of the proſpect of the Sweet well, which would have been viſible, exactly in the centre of the walk, as on account of the verdure of the hill, on the other ſide, which, being covered with a great variety of young oaks, broom, furz, or heath, and other ſhrubs and plants, makes a very agreeable

agreeable landſcape; but through that bad contrivance, you have no direct or full proſpect of it, but whilſt you are in that elbow. That walk, in all other reſpects, indeed, is very commodious, becauſe the quickſet-hedges which incloſe it on both ſides, being very thick, and near twelve feet high, ſkreen or ſhelter it from the rays of the ſun, for the greateſt part of the day.

After we had taken a gentle tour or two in the walk laſt mentioned, one of the company propoſed to return to the well, it being the proper time for taking the laſt glaſs: we returned accordingly, and found the place more deſerted than when we left it. I aſked whether 'twas cuſtomary to withdraw from the well ſo early: the anſwer which was inſtantly made me was this; namely, that almoſt all the company, about that time, flocked either to the well at Geronſtere, or that at Sauveniere. As I had never heard of theſe ſprings before, I aſked whether there was any material difference in the qualities of theſe from that at Pouhon: upon this query, I was informed, that there was ſuch a number of different ſprings at the Spa, and its environs, or parts adjacent, that Nature ſeemed to have been more indulgent, and profuſe of her bleſſings, to that peculiar ſpot, than any other part of Europe whatſoever; that the Pouhon-ſpring, however, was the principal place of rendezvous; that every one who viſited the Spa, made peculiar choice of that well; and that out of complaiſance, or veneration for that in particular, it was generally the

cuſtom

cuſtom to take a farewel glaſs or two before they removed to any other.

My friend, thereupon, very kindly offered me a place in his chariot, to go with him to Geronſtere; but I excuſed myſelf by telling him I had ſome private matters to ſettle and adjuſt at my own apartment; whereupon he invited me to take one diſh of chocolate with him at the inn where he quartered, before he ſet out. I accepted of his favour; and finding, that at my taking my leave, it was but half an hour after ſix, and that all the company in general had deſerted the Pouhon-ſpring, I had time ſufficient to gratify my curioſity, and make my remarks on every particular, relative to that fountain, which I imagined worthy of the leaſt obſervation.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

On the peculiar Qualities of the Pouhon *Spring, its Cavity or Niche, and its various Inſcriptions.*

I Imagined, that the Pouhon ſpring had been totally abandoned; but I found, upon farther enquiry, that three or four of the nymph's ſincereſt admirers ſtill continued on the ſpot. One of them very courteouſly accoſted me; and notwithſtanding we were perfect ſtrangers to each other, we entered into as familiar a converſe, as if we had been very long acquainted. He opened the diſcourſe with this previous remark, that he plainly perceived I was no water-drinker. To this I immediately replied, that I arrived at the Spa but the evening before; and I thought it moſt adviſeable to repoſe myſelf for one day, after the fatigue of my journey, before I entered upon a regular courſe of taking the waters: but, as for your part, Sir, ſaid I, I find the Pouhon is your favourite ſpring. Yes, Sir, replied he, ſo it is; and, in my opinion, 'tis preferable to all the reſt put together: no Spa-waters, to my certain knowledge, are drank in any foreign parts, but thoſe exhauſted from that ſpring, where their operation proves as effectual and ſucceſsful, as if they were drank upon the very ſpot: and you yourſelf muſt have obſerved, that every viſiter begins

begins here; and to me 'tis very evident, they fly to others merely out of form; for which reaſon, I ſtick cloſe, for my part, to my own Pouhon ſpring, as being the moſt in repute, without expoſing myſelf to the inconveniencies which may naturally attend the drinking of any intermixtures, which I by no means approve of; ſince I am ſenſible, that the virtues or effects of one ſpring are directly repugnant to thoſe of another; and as my favourite ſpring abounds with ſtronger mineral qualities, wherein their ſalutary influences principally conſiſt, they ought, by all perſons of any judgment or penetration, to be preferred before any other ſpring whatever; notwithſtanding the generality of the Spa viſiters frequent them all; but then, Sir, 'tis with ſcarce any other view, than either to ſpend a few hours in perfect amuſement, or part of their money in hiring of horſes or machines. The peculiar air of aſſurance with which he addreſſed me, the volubility of his diſcourſe, and the many technical terms he occaſionally made uſe of, gave me juſt room to conjecture, that he was the ſtated phyſician of that particular ſpring (for at that time I imagined there were no others); but he very ingenuouſly undeceived me, by telling me that notwithſtanding he was not one of the faculty, the judgment he had formed, in regard to the virtues of the ſeveral waters, was procured by his frequent converſations with thoſe who were profeſſed phyſicians, and hearing their various opinions; and, moreover, by what he had obſerved

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from the diſcourſe of others, who were conſtant viſiters of the place, and were drinkers of thoſe waters every ſeaſon: and as he perceived I gave due attention to all he ſaid, he entered upon the ſubject in a more minute manner; but to convince me that he was no regular doctor, he frankly aſſured me, that he was an inhabitant of Liege, and that he was a lawyer by profeſſion; and that he conſtantly viſited the Spa for about three weeks every long vacation; that being a time when the common courts of judicature were ſhut up, and but little buſineſs in the law of any great conſequence was ſtirring: and to this he added, that as gentlemen of literature, and ſuch as applied themſelves cloſe to their ſtudies, of whom there were numbers at Liege, who for the generality frequented the Spa, by way of relaxation from a too ſedentary courſe of life; he, for his part, drank the waters for the better circulation of his blood, which was rather too thick and heavy, by the tenſion, which, as he expreſſed it, the multiplicity of cauſes he had depending, naturally created; which is not ſo ſurpriſing a thing as poſſibly may be imagined, ſince there is not a city in all Europe more addicted to be litigious and quarrelſome than that of Liege; the courſe of law there being ſo dilatory, through the numerous quirks and evaſions there particularly practiſed: 'tis now become a general proverb, that when a debate about matters of any kind cannot be brought to a fair and amicable concluſion, 'tis immediately ſaid to be as intricate and endleſs

endleſs an affair, as a law-ſuit in the country of Liege. He told me, 'tis true, ſuch a heap of ſtories relative to his law-concerns, and in ſuch an earneſt and loquacious manner, that he almoſt tired my patience out; he never heſitated a moment, and added to his words the pathetic actions and geſticulations of a country curate. I was greatly inclined to take my leave, and repoſe myſelf at my inn; but as he ſeemed to be a gentleman of ſome education and great diſcernment in matters relative to the Spa, I determined to try him farther, upon ſuch topics as my curioſity induced me to be more fully informed of. Accordingly, I begged the favour of him to explain to me ſeveral little peculiarities relative to the Pouhon-ſpring, which I found was his favourite: and, in the firſt place, I deſired to be informed of the etymology of the term *Pouhon*, and from whence it was particularly derived. He complied with my requeſt inſtantaneouſly; and aſſured me, that the name of *Pouhon*, by which that ſpring or well is diſtinguiſhed from the reſt, came from the country-term *Pouhir*, which, in the language ſpoken at Liege, was the ſame as *Puiſer* in the French; as if one would ſay the place where the inhabitants drew up their water, the Wells, by way of eminence, or, as it was formerly ſtyled, the *Puiſoir*; becauſe they daily drew up, in that particular place, a large quantity of water, either for the peculiar ſervice of the Bobelins, or foreign water-drinkers; or for the inhabitants of the Spa, the generality of whom make

make uſe of it as their common drink; or in a word, in order to fill up a prodigious large quantity of bottles with the water of that particular ſpring; there being annually exported no leſs than an hundred thouſand, and ſome times one hundred and fifty thouſand bottles into foreign parts.

As I was conſidering what a vaſt quantity of water this ſpring muſt furniſh, to anſwer ſo many different calls for it, I had the curioſity to examine into the capaciouſneſs, or extent, of its baſon: I obſerved, that the waters of it iſſued forth in bubbles, from the ſeveral fiſſures, or little chinks, that appear between the ſtones wherewith it is paved; by means whereof the water is continually recruiting. I took the exact dimenſions of the baſon accordingly, and found it very near three feet and a quarter in length; in breadth, two feet and three inches; and in depth, three feet and a quarter; by which menſuration, it will contain at leaſt ſix tons, or about fifteen hundred pounds weight of water, with which it is full every morning; and as it is perpetually recruiting, without intermiſſion, it is eaſy enough to conceive how it furniſhes a conſtant ſupply of water for the various uſes to which it is daily applied.

This baſon is lined, on all ſides, with a plate of lead; to which there ought to be added another of iron; or otherwiſe it ought to have no lining at all; becauſe the acid, which diſengages itſelf by the precipitation of the iron, and the ſolidity of the

the waters, might cling ſo cloſe to the lead, as even to liquefy it: but beſides, theſe waters have a ſuperabundant and ſuperficial acid that might adhere to the lead, whereon, not only the acid quality, but all the ſaline particles might poſſibly act. This piece of advice, only offered by way of amuſement, may, 'tis probable, make a ſtronger impreſſion than in a practical treatiſe on the ſubject, where this hint has been before advanced.

Over this baſon there is erected a cavity, or niche, with a crown, or top of a column, all of free-ſtone. This niche is open on the weſt ſide, and ſurrounded with a fence of free-ſtone likewiſe; round which the drinkers of the waters range themſelves, in order to be regularly ſerved.

As I caſt my eyes to the upper part of the frontiſpiece to this niche, I obſerved divers inſcriptions, in form of chronograms, a ſpecies of literary compoſure much in vogue in this country; but frequently the reſult of monkiſh indolence, vanity and ſelf-conceit, as being over-fond of any thing that is intricate and myſterious. Though theſe inſcriptions, indeed, have ſomething in them more amuſing than elegant, yet, as they are placed as curioſities relative to the place, and as all people are fond of, and prejudiced in favour of a place in which they reſide for a time, and in which, it muſt be allowed, amuſement is the principal buſineſs, I was determined to give them a place in my memoirs. The firſt of theſe inſcriptions, which is placed above all the others, and, as it were,

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in a corner, is the following Latin chronogram, denoting an occurrence, or remarkable event, the commemoration whereof it is principally intended to preſerve.

The chronogram is digeſted in the words and form following :

" MARCI POSTRIDIE AQUA
" APPULIT USQUE."

That is ſay, " In the year 1674, the day im-
" mediately ſubſequent to the feſtival of St.
" Mark," or in other terms, " on the 26th day
" of April, the water roſe to this mark."

As this inſcription is placed five feet, or more, above the ſurface, or level of the cauſe-way, I inferred from thence, that the inundation which occurred at that time muſt have been general, and covered the whole town. In ſhort, my new acquaintance, the lawyer of Liege, not only aſſured me, that every ſpot of ground belonging to the Spa was then laid under water, but that a poor unhappy woman, who was either too remiſs, or too helpleſs, with reſpect to her preſervation, was unfortunately loſt in the deluge.

Formerly, after any impetuous and haſty ſhowers, or upon any ſudden thaw, when the ſnow lay deep upon the ground, the inhabitants were too frequently expoſed to the like misfortune. My friend, moreover, informed me of a much more recent inundation, that ſubſiſted for ſeveral days; *viz.* in the month of Auguſt, in the year 1720. The inceſſant rains that fell in that ſummer had ſwelled the rivulet to that degree, that it overflowed

flowed at once, and formed ſuch an impetuous torrent, that it carried away with it, not only large ſhards, or weighty pieces from the adjacent rocks, but tore up trees by the roots, and totally deſtroyed a great number of houſes.

I thereupon aſked him whether or not ſuch inundations frequently happened. To which he replied, that ſuch misfortunes, ariſing from the overflowing of the river, muſt not be confounded with thoſe petty inſtantaneous torrents, which occurred after haſty rains or hurricanes, by the aſſemblage of all the ſinks, or ſewers of the mountains, adjacent to the Spa, which, in their fall, reſemble the awful ſound of thunder, and by their impetuoſity cover ſeveral of its ſtreets, and more particularly that which leads from the Capuchins convent to the Pouhon ſpring, which at ſuch times cannot be croſſed; but then ſuch inundations as theſe prove only of very ſhort duration, and can with no propriety be compared with thoſe antient overflowings of the river; a misfortune, that has not befel the town for theſe many years.

In former times the river was pent up at the bottom of the Spa, over-againſt a large ſtructure, or building, then known by the ſign of the Spotted Horſe, by a flood-gate, or dyke, erected for the ſervice of an oil mill: that dyke, or flood-gate, ſlackened or diminiſhed the courſe of the water, ſo far, that the bed thereof was not above half ſo deep as 'tis at preſent; by which means, upon the leaſt augmentation, or encreaſe of the waters,

waters, it was ſubject to overflow, and frequently did; but then for no great continuance; becauſe the hills that command the town on all ſides, but more eſpecially on the eaſt and north-eaſt, as far as the very ſource, or head of the Pouhon ſpring, which is ſituate about two leagues from it; all thoſe waters, which trickle down from thence, diſcharge themſelves directly into the river above the town, which makes it overflow the banks, very conſiderably, upon any impetuous rain, or by the ſudden melting of the ſnow upon a thaw; but the mill above mentioned, having been abandoned by its proprietor, and run to ruin and decay; and the flood-gate, or dyke, having been greatly damaged, and by the inundation in the year 1720, totally demoliſhed; the waters thereof, through that caſualty, having a more free and rapid courſe, took away large pieces of the rock, by virtue whereof they hollowed for themſelves a much deeper bed, which is at preſent a ſhelter and protection from the like diſaſters.

This ſuccinct account of that important affair appeared to me, I muſt own, very juſt and natural.—But to return to our chronograms: there are two other inſcriptions directly underneath that which, we hope, has been ſufficiently explained: theſe two laſt, however, are placed in the front, which is contrived on purpoſe for their inſertion. The former is a diſtich in Latin, conſiſting of an hexameter and pentameter verſe, the laſt of which is a chronogram at the ſame time. The words ſtand in the form here under-written.

" Obſtructum

" Obſtructum reſerat, durum terit, humida ſiccat,
" DEBILE FORTIFICAT, SIC TA MEN ARTE BIBIS."

I immediately apprehended, that this diſtich was intended to illuſtrate the ſalutary virtues of theſe mineral waters: the genuine ſenſe of which, in the language of the faculty, is to this, or the like effect, *viz.*

" The mineral waters of this ſpring (if regu-
" larly taken, and in the quantity preſcribed)
" will ſoon remove all obſtructions, diſſipate and
" diſperſe all protuberances, or callous and coa-
" gulated matter, ſuck up, or abſorb, the floating
" humours, and corroborate, or new brace, the
" parts that are grown languid and relaxed."

And thus, by the whimſical intermixture of capital or numeral letters, with the ſmall ones, which conſtrain, as it were, the eyes of the reader, and oblige him to caſt up their valuation, in order to find out or diſcover the date of the event to which they refer; 'tis evident, the above capitals are there inſcribed, to denote the year 1656.

I imagined, that the date might poſſibly refer to the time when that fountain or ſpring was firſt diſcovered; but my learned interpreter, with a ſmile, rectified my miſtake, and aſſured me, that thoſe mineral waters were well known long before that time: and farther to convince me of my erroneous notion, he aſſerted, without the leaſt heſitation or demur, that the Spa-waters were identically the ſame with thoſe peculiarly taken notice

notice of by Pliny, and by him diſtinguiſhed under the denomination of the fountain, or well of Tonger. Finding, however, that he expected to be credited therein upon his own veracity, or bare word, I ſeemed ready and willing to acquieſce in his poſitive aſſertion; with the ſecret hopes, however, of having ſo important an article better cleared up afterwards, by ſome more able and experienced an antiquarian. He added, moreover, that the chronogram, or inſcription, was there placed to denote only, or ſpecify, the year wherein that niche, or cavity, had been repaired; that the Bavarian arms, which were fixed up over it, with this device, "Pietate et Sapientia," were placed there in honour of, and as a public teſtimony of the higheſt veneration and reſpect juſtly due to Maximilian Henry, of that auguſt family, who was then biſhop and prince of Liege, and as ſuch, or in that capacity, Marquis of Franchimont, the Spa being a part of, or belonging to that marquiſate.

Directly under the above-written diſtich, there is another chronographical inſcription in the Latin tongue, which refers to another very remarkable occurrence, in the words, and in the ſame whimſical manner, as the former, *viz.*

"A TERRÆ MOTU LONGE UBERIOR, NI-
"TIDIOR, GUSTUQUE FORTIOR, SCA-
"TURIVIT."

That is to ſay, "By the earthquake, that hap-
"pened in the year 1692, the waters of this ſpring
"flowed with much greater plenty, and became,
"not

" not only more clear and tranſparent, but pro-
" cured a ſtronger and more mineral taſte."

I aſked my interpreter whether thoſe improvements mentioned, and hinted at by the above inſcription, were real facts; to which he anſwered in the affirmative.

The remarkable earthquake that happened on the 18th of September, in the year 1692, had given a very favourable opportunity to ſome malevolent, diſingenuous, and ſelf-intereſted perſons to depretiate the Spa-waters, and peremptorily to aſſert, that they had entirely loſt their original virtues: this ill-natured aſperſion, this malignant reproach, was grounded too plauſibly, though falſely, on that confuſion which the earthquake above mentioned had created amongſt the ſprings of the Spa, through their intermixture with ſome veins of common water: and as an undeniable evidence of the truth of that ſcandalous report, that the cliffs and crevices were viſible enough, which that remarkable event had made in thoſe very hills and rocks, from whence the Pouhon well in particular derives all her waters. The war, which at that time haraſſed and perplexed the country, rendered travelling to the Spa very dangerous and inſecure; becauſe the volunteers, or light troops, were then making frequent excurſions; and all theſe melancholy circumſtances, joined together, greatly contributed towards the diſcredit of thoſe waters; and becauſe they were leſs frequented and reſorted to by ſtrangers, than they had been in times paſt, through the

misfortune of thoſe wars, it was injuriouſly and without any juſt grounds concluded, that thoſe mineral waters had loſt their innate ſalutary qualities, by means of that unhappy earthquake.

Dr. Edmond Neſſel, who was, at that critical conjuncture, a celebrated phyſician at Liege, being ſolicitous to know the true ſtate of the caſe, went on purpoſe to the Spa, on the 28th of June, in the year 1698, in order to take an actual ſurvey of the place, as he himſelf informs us in a treatiſe which he then wrote on the Spa-waters, and printed afterwards, in the year 1699.

What he there aſſerts carries with it a greater weight in regard to his veracity, and the authenticity of the fact, by his confirmation of it, thro' the evidence of the ſieur Salpeteur, a gentleman of as indiſputable a character as himſelf, an apothecary by profeſſion, who at that juncture reſided on the ſpot; a gentleman of profound knowledge in chemiſtry, and one who had applied his mind for ſeveral years paſt to the ſtudy of the nature and peculiar qualities of thoſe waters. Both of theſe indiſputable judges declared openly, that it was their joint opinion, that the Spa-waters had in no reſpect altered their natural taſte, but retained the very ſame ſalutary qualities that they were endowed with before the earthquake; thoſe of Geronſtere and Pouhon only excepted, in which alone they perceived ſome ſmall matter of variation; in the former, with reſpect to its nitrous quality, which was not then, indeed, ſo perfectly ſtrong as it

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was before, but fully recovered that virtue in a very ſhort time afterwards, inſomuch that the difference was trivial and next to nothing; and the only real and perceptive alteration ſubſiſted in the Pouhon ſpring. That juſtly-admired author ingenuouſly acknowledges, in direct terms, that he made no farther reſearches into their innate virtues; but what variation there was, it proved to the advantage and advancement of that particular ſpring; as thoſe waters, in fact, became more ſalutary than they were at firſt, through a double quantity of their mineral virtues; and that theſe waters, which formerly, upon any impetuous ſhowers, intermingled with them, notwithſtanding their additional mineral virtues, retained, at all times, their original tranſparency, ever ſince that remarkable epocha, to the everlaſting credit and reputation of the Spa; and the commemoration thereof ought with juſtice to be preſerved, and recorded in characters of gold, (by the chronogram, or inſcription, which is at preſent viſible over the niche) purſuant to the obſervations of that learned phyſician, who continued to entertain the very ſame opinion of their great improvement, after the analyſes, or ſeparations of the parts, which were compared to thoſe which had been made before that memorable event. 'Tis very true, added my judicious interpreter, that thoſe analyſes are not in the taſte of theſe at preſent; but in caſe they were as deficient as the modern phyſicians pretend, they would ſtill be ſufficient to compare the quantity of the mine-

ral qualities, which have been found therein by the ſame artiſts, at one time or another, by the ſame procedures, inſomuch, that the alteration for the better, or the improvement, expreſſed in the inſcription, appears to be real matter of fact, and well grounded.

After my lawyer and I had thus run through our curſory remarks on the three inſcriptions over the niche, he engaged my attention ſtill farther in the peruſal of another, and much longer inſcription, fixed over the hall-door, contiguous to the well: before I attempted to read ſo long a ſcroll, and examine the arms that appeared above it, I begged the favour of my interpreter to inform me whoſe monument it was, and on what occaſion erected on ſo conſpicuous a place. He readily replied, that they were the imperial arms of the czar, Peter the Great, and that the long inſcription was an accurate and comprehenſive detail of the heroic virtues and exploits of that monarch, and of the wonderful ſucceſs the waters of the Spa met with in their operations towards the recovery of his health, by his imperial majeſty's regular drinking thereof, upon the ſpot, in the year 1717; and that his majeſty, before his return to his Ruſſian territories, gratefully recollecting, that his reſtoration to his priſtine ſtrength and vigour was (with the bleſſing of heaven on the uſe of the means) purely owing to his regular uſe of the ſalutary waters of the Spa, ſent that grand monument to the principal magiſtrate of the Spa, wrought by one of the ableſt

and

and moſt experienced ſculptors of Amſterdam; who, out of regard to the name of that generous benefactor, but more eſpecially to the peculiar motive that induced him to ſend ſo valuable a preſent, thought it an honour too great and glorious to the inhabitants of the Spa, and to the peculiar virtues of her waters, to be fixed up in any leſs conſpicuous place than where it was, in order that no viſiter ſhould be ignorant of ſo great a cure: for which purpoſe, the above-named magiſtrate cauſed a new frontiſpiece to be erected to the hall-door, to have a favourable opportunity of fixing it in ſo fair and advantageous a light as that it now ſtands in.

After this previous diſcourſe, I read the inſcription, an exact copy whereof I have here given the reader for his amuſement.

" PETRUS primus, D. G. Ruſſorum imperator,
" Pius, felix, invictus,
" Apud ſuos militaris diſciplinæ reſtitutor,
" Scientiarum omnium, artiumq; protoſator,
" Validiſſimâ bellicarum navium
" Proprio marte conſtructâ claſſe,
" Auctis ultra finem exercitibus ſuis,
" Ditionibus tam avitis quam bello partis,
" Inter ipſas Bellonæ flammas in tuto poſitis,
" Ad exteros ſe convertit, [ribus,
" Variorumq; per Europam gentium luſtratis mo-
" Per Galliam ad Namureum atq; Leodium
" Has ad Spadanas aquas,
" Tamquam ad ſalutis portum pervenit,
" Saluberrimiſq; præſertim Geronſterici fontis,

" Feliciter potis,
" Priſtino robori, optatæq; incolumitati
" Reſtitutus fuit,
" Anno MDCCXVII. die XXIII. Julij.
" Reviſiſq; dein Batavis,
" Avitumq; ad imperium reverſus,
" Æternum hocce gratitudinis ſuæ monumentum
" Hic apponi præcepit,
" Anno MDCCXVIII."

In Engliſh thus.

" Peter the Firſt, by the grace of God,
" Emperor of Ruſſia,
" The pious, the ſucceſsful, the invincible;
" Who, having firſt eſtabliſhed military diſcipline
" Amongſt his troops,
" And taken care that the arts and ſciences
" Should flouriſh throughout his dominions;
" Having armed, moreover, according to his own
" Will and pleaſure,
" A very powerful fleet of men of war,
" And augmented his armies beyond number;
" Having ſecured, likewiſe, all his hereditary
" Eſtates and conqueſts, [war;
" More completely than ever, even by the dint of
" Determined to travel thro' all the
" European countries; [manners,
" And having apprized himſelf of their cuſtoms and
" He firſt viſited France, Namur and Liege,
" And from thence ſteered his courſe to the Spa,
" As to the haven of health,
" Where

" Where having drank, with ſurpriſing ſucceſs,
" Her ſalutary, mineral waters,
" More eſpecially thoſe which were adminiſtered
" By the advice of his phyſicians,
" At the celebrated fountain of Geronſtere,
" He perfectly recovered his priſtine ſtrength, and
" State of health,
" In the year 1717, on the 23d of July;
" And before his return to his own empire, he went
" Into Holland, and from thence ſent hither
" This his eternal monument of gratitude to
" Heaven
" For his happy reſtoration, in the year
" M DCC XVIII."

This inſcription is engraved upon a large block, or table, of black marble. The characters which were originally cut, and covered with gold, were afterwards, upon their decay, painted only in white, that they might more eaſily and conſpicuouſly be diſcerned upon a black ground. This monument, or table, is ſurmounted with a grand circular frame, or eſcutcheon of alabaſter, on which are carved in bas-relief the imperial arms of his czarian majeſty, with their ſeveral quarters, and proper attributes. The upper part of the eſcutcheon is enriched with a corniſh, or cornice, in tympane, compoſed of marble, diverſified with various colours; the block, or table, is embelliſhed on each ſide with two beautiful conſoles, or ſhouldering pieces of the fineſt alabaſter; the whole ſtanding on a baſis, or pedeſtal, of variegated

gated marble, is fixed likewiſe on two conſoles, or ſupporters of alabaſter; and the back is compoſed of black marble. The various beautiful colours, and the ſymmetry and proportion of all the parts, in ſhort, which are enriched with a very magnificent ſtructure, conſtitute ſuch an artful and elegant monument, as has its peculiar merit, and uncommon beauties, excluſive of the illuſtrious perſonage, who conferred the honour of it upon the inhabitants of the Spa.

Thus, though I was mortified, indeed, at firſt, in ſome degree by my lawyer, or interpreter, by his tedious harangue on the quirks and evaſions too frequently practiſed by gentlemen of his profeſſion, and more particularly by thoſe reſiding at Liege; yet, on the other hand, he made me ample compenſation, by thoſe preliminary informations, which he has already given me of the Spa in the moſt open and friendly manner; and by ſome farther inſtructions with which he propoſes to favour me. And in caſe his ſuccinct account ſhould be attended with ſome ſmall defects, yet ſtill they will initiate me ſo far at leaſt, as to facilitate my future reſearches with more correctneſs. And as 'twas near nine o'clock at night, and high time to return to my lodgings, I took my leave of him, and returned him many thanks for all his courteous and obliging informations.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Form or Method obſerved in Viſits. Of the Manner in which Cures are performed. Of the various Atchievements, or Coats of Arms, that are frequently left at the Spa *by Strangers; together with a View or Proſpect of the* Pouhon *Well, and the grand Street in which it is ſituated.*

NO ſooner was I well got home to my inn, but my valet informed me, that there was a gentleman below, who wanted to ſpeak with me. I aſked him, whether 'twas my friend whom he ſaw with me in the morning. No, Sir, ſaid he, neither was the gentleman pleaſed to leave his name. Not being inclined therefore to receive a viſit from any one at that time of night, I ſent down word, that I was engaged: whereupon he left his card and compliments; by which I underſtood it was my old acquaintance the baron of G---, whoſe name I had ſeen in the bookſeller's liſt; bywhich means I found that he was reſident at the Spa. At firſt indeed I was ſomewhat ſurpriſed to think, which way he could poſſibly know of my arrival; but then I imagined

gined it was probable, that my friend might have informed him, or that he had ſeen my name in the catalogue; but, beſides, 'tis one of the firſt pleaſing amuſements there, that, as the town is but ſmall, and the multitude of ſtrangers being concentred, as it were, and all aſſembled together upon one and the ſame ſpot; 'tis no difficult matter for perſons, who are acquainted, to find one another out; to know almoſt every thing that occurs; and to be immediately informed of all ſuch as are about to leave the town, of which intimation is ſoon given; for as company is the very life and ſoul of the place, 'tis natural for all parties concerned to be ſolicitous and willing to be informed how the concourſe is revived, and kept up from day to day.

In leſs than a quarter of an hour my valet gave me notice of a viſit of another kind; namely, of two Capuchin fryars, who waited below to pay their reſpects. Though I was a little ſurpriſed at a viſit from that quarter; yet, as I preſumed, that they would pay very little regard to my being in a diſhabille, and that their commiſſion would ſoon be diſpatched, I gave orders for their immediate admittance, notwithſtanding I could not imagine what could induce them to come to my lodgings at that time of night. I found immediately, that 'twas the ſuperior of that convent with his attendant, who came to me (in the name of the whole community) to pay their compliments on my ſafe arrival,

arrival, with their moſt ſanguine wiſhes, that my drinking the waters might ſoon meet with the deſired effect; and with their offers, at the ſame time, of free liberty to walk in their gardens, whenever I ſaw convenient, and of all other little friendly offices within their power; which, as they were conſcious to themſelves, could prove of no great conſequence or importance, they ſoon gave me to underſtand, that their fraternity were very poor, and had no other ſupport or dependance for their annual ſubſiſtence than the voluntary benefactions of their viſiters during the ſeaſon; and that they were obliged, in imitation of the induſtrious ant, to collect and gather, in the ſummer, the neceſſary ſtores, or proviſions, for their comfortable relief during the inclemency of the winter ſeaſon. This ſhort detail will give my readers an adequate idea of this viſit from thoſe reverend fathers to every ſtranger on his firſt appearance. However, I intimated to the ſuperior, that I was a little aſtoniſhed, that, in his converſation with me, he had not only my name, but my addition alſo, which he uſed very familiarly: to this he made but a ſhuffling and vague reply, but with ſuch a ſignificant and myſterious air, as gave me juſt grounds to imagine, that he hoped to know me better upon the next viſit. However, without making any farther declarations, and viſibly to avoid being troubleſome, he took his leave with ſeveral very profound and reſpectful bows.

Upon

Reflecting on this viſit of the two fathers, I was ſomewhat ſurpriſed to find, that they executed their commiſſion with ſuch dexterity and addreſs; and that men, devoted by their ſtation to a ſolitary and recluſe life, ſhould ſo ſoon get intelligence of the arrival of ſtrangers; but that was a miſtake of mine, of which I have ſince been undeceived. A mere accident, however, occaſioned ſo haſty a viſit; for their buſineſs then was to pay their reſpects to an officer, who lodged at the ſame inn as I did, and was obliged to depart ſooner than he intended, and before the convent could well get intelligence of ſo caſual a removal: whereupon the ſuperior, upon the firſt notice, hurried thither to pay his devoirs; nor was the compliment paid without the wiſhed-for effect; for he found a half louis-d'or was left by the gentleman with the landlord of the houſe, to be delivered to the ſyndic, or treaſurer of the convent. This, it ſeems, is a cuſtomary tribute, or tax, which ſtrangers voluntarily impoſe upon themſelves, either by way of charity, or under the form only of an acknowledgment. There are few that give leſs than a ducat; ſome aſſeſs themſelves a louis-d'or, others two; others, again, more or leſs, according as their liberality and benevolent diſpoſition prompts them.

Two louis-d'ors, however, is reckoned a very handſome benefaction, though, amongſt the ſubſcribers, there are ſome, and thoſe too of the proteſtant

proteſtant perſuaſion, which not only make them larger donations, but ſend them in a conſiderable quantity of proviſions. 'Tis poſſible, thoſe of that ſect, who are unaccuſtomed to ſee mortals with ſuch beards, and in ſuch a dreſs, as to them appears ſo ſingular, may be more affected, and touched with greater pity and compaſſion towards them than other people. But be that as it may, the motive above mentioned brought the ſuperior and his attendant to the inn, and knowing that I had fixed my lodgings there, he embraced that favourable opportunity of executing his commiſſion in reſpect to me.

I have been informed, moreover, that no one can come to the Spa, but theſe fathers have immediate notice of his arrival, and never fail of paying him their devoirs in the ſame polite manner. This quick diſpatch of buſineſs, on their part, makes me apt to think, they have proper ſpies, who flock about every machine, or chariot, on its firſt arrival, and, intermixing with the perſon's retinue, not only aſk queſtions of the ſeveral valets, but read the directions on their baggage; by which artful meaſures they acquaint themſelves with the names, diſtinctions, and countries; nay, ſometimes with the particular maladies they labour under, when they reſort thither for relief; or of the motives of any other nature, whatever they be, that induced them to the viſit: that theſe emiſſaries run directly to the convent, and give in ſtily the intelligence

intelligence they have caſually met with; and thoſe venerable fathers take care not to defer their viſit any longer than the next day at fartheſt, and pay their compliments in a ſuitable manner to the dignity of the perſon ſo arrived; and, in ſhort, not one ſingle ſoul eſcapes them, be he Jew, catholic, proteſtant, man or woman, a perſon of quality, or a tradeſman: their compliments, in a word, are univerſal, and wonderfully well adapted to all capacities. Thus have I given my readers a tranſient idea of the very firſt ceremony which is now generally practiſed at the Spa.

The next cuſtomary viſit is that of the phyſician, whom I had enquired after, and immediately followed that of the convent: upon our firſt interview, I delivered him a letter, which I brought with me from my doctor at home, with an account of the particular indiſpoſition which I laboured under, and for which he had preſcribed me the uſe of the Spa-waters. After he had hummed it over, he aſked me a few trivial private queſtions; but the firſt conference was very ſhort: he told me, that the inſtructions with which I had favoured him, were ſo full, and ſo perfectly well circumſtantiated, that they needed no long diſcuſſion at that time. He preſcribed, however, a proper quantity of ſalts, and a ſtated number of glaſſes at the Pouhon ſpring to be drank the next day, and added thereto ſome few rules for my regimen whilſt I was taking them. My indiſpoſition was not very conſiderable; and I imagined that to be the main reaſon for his making his viſit ſo very ſhort; though it was very probable,

probable, that his real motive for the diſpatch he made with me might be to attend ſome other patients; for 'twas juſt about the time when company were uſed to return from the diſtant ſprings to that of Pouhon; and that might be the time when he was moſt wanted.

My impatience to pay a viſit to my friend, and to wait on the company to which he had given me an invitation, was a ſubſtantial reaſon for my not taking my phyſician's haſty viſit any ways amiſs: I only deſired him to let me ſee him the next day, and from time to time, as his avocations would admit him. Accordingly, he promiſed that he would punctually attend me; and whether out of form, or neceſſity, he added, that he would take my caſe farther into his ſerious conſideration, before he would give me any more inſtructions, or preſcribe the neceſſary regimen to be obſerved. I aſked him thereupon, whether the courſe of living, and the method of performing the cure, was not uniform, and the ſame with all drinkers in general; ſince he only preſcribed the uſe of the waters for one as well as another. To this he anſwered in the negative; and, in a few words, alledged his reaſons; and thereupon withdrew.

The barber likewiſe, whom I had pitched upon out of ſeveral who had offered me their ſervice, was at my chamber-door, where he waited with impatience till he could gain admittance. From that time till noon, every hour is very pretious with the whole trade; for every

one

one gets dreſt before dinner. When once, however, they imagine their cuſtomers ſecured, they are not ſo over-ſolicitous of regarding with ſuch ſtrictneſs the exact hour agreed on.

When once I had got myſelf ſhaved, and my wig well dreſt, I was ſoon prepared to make my public appearance, and I made all the haſte I could, becauſe 'twas late before my barber left me. As I was juſt upon the point of making my exit, who ſhould open my door, without any ceremony, but my particular friend himſelf! who, impatient to ſee me, flew into the room, and found me in diſhabille, as he had catched me the morning before: he made his arch remarks upon my dreſs, and aſſured me, that my curioſity and exactneſs in that particular had made him wait with impatience for his breakfaſt. I imagined, for my part, that it might be one of thoſe pieces of freedom peculiar to the Spa, to appear in an undreſs; which to me ſeemed highly commodious, conſidering the principal motive that induced them to attend at the general rendezvous. My friend, however, ſaid, that at the Spa, people dreſt, for the generality, according to their own way and humour; that there were ſome, who, under pretence of acting without the leaſt conſtraint, appeared at the wells at noon, in the very ſame careleſs garb as in the morning; with the exception only of leaving their ſurtout, or great coat, behind them, which common prudence, and the danger of catching cold, abſolutely requires to be worn in a cloudy, cold morning, as is frequently

frequently the caſe in that particular climate; but that moſt people, notwithſtanding, made it a point to appear well dreſt at all times, the morning only excepted; but after that, they ſtudied dreſs there as much as they do at court; eſpecially at aſſemblies, or balls; and more particularly, when the weather was perfectly calm and ſerene, when they were all in high ſpirits, and every one was ambitious of making their appearance in the beſt apparel their wardrobe could afford them.

My friend informed me, however, that very few got perfectly dreſt 'till 'twas high-noon; for the impatience which almoſt every one expreſſed for his breakfaſt, and the uſual time ſpent in that agreeable repaſt, (as the waters naturally create an appetite) would admit of no trifling or delays afterwards. This diſcourſe of his laid me under an indiſpenſible obligation of making an apology for his tedious waiting for me the day before: in excuſe, however, I told him of the caſual amuſement that I met with at the Pouhon ſpring, and my ignorance of the nature and cuſtoms of the place: beſides, I obſerved to him, that the viſit I then propoſed to pay him was a teſtimony of my ſincere friendſhip and reſpect, without the leaſt view of any formal entertaintainment; and I returned him many thanks for his friendly invitation. To this he replied, 'twas mighty well; for not finding you come as I expected, I took it for granted, that you met with ſome unexpected diſappointment that prevented your intended viſit; and to confeſs the truth ingenuouſly,

ingenuouſly, I fell to, *ſans ceremonie*, before I ſet out, and came hither to find you. 'Tis one of the privileges of the Spa, ſaid he, that the promiſes or engagements that are made, or entered into there, are no ways binding: every one diſpenſes with them as his fancy directs him, or as a more agreeable party of pleaſure offers itſelf to his view.

There perfect liberty is enjoyed in its utmoſt beauty and extent. He propoſed to me to take a tour; which I very readily complied with. I thought, however, that I was indiſpenſibly obliged to return the baron of G—— the viſit I owed him: and as I was a perfect novice at the Spa, I begged the favour of being well informed of the cuſtoms obſerved there, in regard to viſits; for I had formed an idea, that the place was totally exempt from all ceremony and conſtraint; but by the card, which that gentleman brought me in the morning, I was induced to think, that all ſuch formal notices were not abſolutely rejected, or grown out of faſhion. As I had entertained, perhaps, a wrong notion in that article, I begged the favour of ſome farther inſtructions on this point, not only for the regulation of my future conduct; but to gratify my curioſity, in regard to the rules which are obſerved with reſpect to viſits, by the different degrees of perſonages who frequent the Spa.

The grandees, or moſt illuſtrious perſonages, who reſort thither, either for pleaſure or health, receive, ſaid he, the ſame teſtimonies of reſpect

at

at that place, as they are uſually honoured with any where elſe. Whether they arrive before, or after other people, it is the ſtated rule for inferiors to pay their devoirs or compliments firſt; and the return is conducted according to the ſtate and condition, or the character, which they reſpectively bear. If the diſproportion in point of quality or fortune be manifeſtly great, no return at all is expected: princes, or even ſovereigns, however, generally teſtify their regard for perſons of diſtinction, either by a perſonal viſit, or at leaſt ſend their compliments by ſome gentleman belonging to their retinue. Theſe counter-viſits, (if we may call them ſo) or returns, are very little more than bare ceremony; they are reduced, in ſhort, to a formal tour in their chariot, or perhaps on foot, in order to leave a card at ſome people's houſes, who never fail of either being really out of the way, or at leaſt denied, if enquiry be made at their reſpective houſes or apartments. For the moſt part, however, they only ſtop for a moment, in order to leave their name, and give notice that the viſit is returned.

As to the viſits which are paid by particular perſons, eſpecially by perſons of equal degree or fortune, and thoſe likewiſe made by gentry and perſons of diſtinction, their rules are different; or, more properly ſpeaking, they obſerve no rule at all. There are ſome of theſe, who, upon their firſt arrival, make a tour of viſits, and pay their compliments indiſcriminately to all perſons of any quality

or

or faſhion in the place; the firſt inſtance whereof was given in the year 1759, by the Count de P—, who, with a view of engaging all the company then reſident at the Spa, paid his viſits to all the *beau monde* there: this example was ſoon followed by ſome others; but there were ſome again, who imagined themſelves under a kind of conſtraint, by being obliged to pay their counter-viſits; notwithſtanding the return, in reality, was ſo light and eaſy, and attended with no manner of pain: they had nothing more to do than paſs by the door, and leave a card at their apartments, and the whole affair was fully completed.

Moſt people, for the generality, pay no viſits at all, but to ſuch perſons as are apparently their ſuperiors; they content themſelves with teſtifying their reſpects to their bottle companions, or ſuch others with whom they are perſonally acquainted; who, on the other hand, frequently circumvent them, by waiting on them firſt, and by paying their devoirs to all new comers.

Notwithſtanding the air of eaſe and freedom which my friend gave to theſe kind of formal ſalutations, yet there appeared to me ſo much ſtiffneſs and formality in them, that I could not forbear telling him, that I was much ſurpriſed that perſons, who reſorted to the Spa, in order to live at eaſe and in tranquillity, or whoſe indiſpoſitions perfectly diſqualified them from making their appearance amongſt the grandees,

ſhould

ſhould be under any obligation of paying their counter-viſits. Good manners, indeed, and the cuſtom of the place would oblige them, at leaſt, to teſtify their reſpects to their ſuperiors, or their equals, though no ways acquainted; and ſometimes with a ſecret diſguſt to contracting of any ſuch friendſhips. It appeared to me, in ſhort, that in a place peculiarly devoted, or ſet apart, for the reſtoration of health to a ſet of invalids, ſuch friendſhips ought to be contracted no otherwiſe than occaſionally, and by mere accident, which aroſe naturally, and rendered them more conformable to their taſte and the characters they aſſumed.

In that reſpect, replied my friend, there was no manner of conſtraint. The firſt viſits open the way to new acquaintance, in caſe people have any inclination to contract them, without laying themſelves under any other obligation, than to diſcover an air of courteſy and complaiſance, when they caſually met together, either at the wells or the aſſemblies; and it is by virtue of ſuch a deportment, that converſation there becomes ſo peculiarly free and eaſy. In ſhort, as mirth and amuſement contribute greatly towards the ſucceſs of the waters, people ſhould reconcile themſelves, as much as poſſible, to the various tempers and diſpoſitions of ſtrangers, and render their converſation together free and eaſy; by looking on them as ſo many members of a free republic, who are under an abſolute neceſſity of living

living together, without paying the leaſt regard to the inequality that may poſſibly occur in their reſpective ſtates and conditions; and whoſe company and converſation ſhould have no other aim than innocent amuſement and ſpending a few leiſure hours in the moſt agreeable manner. Viſits thus paid between perſons that are perfect ſtrangers, being authoriſed by cuſtom, are the firſt ſteps to theſe caſual ties of amity and friendſhip; and ſuch as are not inclined to contract them cloſely, are under no obligation to renew them; they put an end, in a word, to all ceremony, and are dropt at pleaſure.

Moreover, thoſe who take delight in tranquillity and repoſe, may reſide there in as retired and ſolitary a manner as they think fit, as every ſeaſon furniſhes them with inſtances of ſuch lovers of retirement; and amongſt this claſs, there are ſome who never want for amuſements: they have them, it is true, to themſelves without interruption; and there are rural objects enough to engage their attention.

Amongſt the multitude of perſons of both ſexes who reſort to the Spa, there are different characters, and amongſt them many that are very amiable; and beſides the friends which we may caſually meet with there, we can never fail of finding ſome ſtrangers whoſe company and converſation prove exceedingly delightful. Notwithſtanding, it is true, that the indiſpoſitions which ſome labour under are the principal motives that induce them

them to viſit theſe wells, the much greater part are of that number of invalids who bring a conſiderable ſhare of good humour along with them; whilſt others recover what they had loſt of their good humour, by drinking the waters, which, for the generality, reſtore, with people's health, their priſtine gaiety of temper. It is not in the leaſt to be queſtioned, therefore, but that there are perſons of both ſexes to be met with there every ſeaſon, whoſe company and converſe are extremely engaging, with whom, though ſtrangers, any one would be proud to be admitted amongſt the number of their acquaintance. One inſtantaneouſly therefore, as it were, and chearfully embraces the happy opportunity that offers. We are ſoon convinced of our good fortune; and out of this crowd of viſitors are formed ſelect charming ſocieties, grounded on a kind of ſympathy of tempers, and a conformity of characters: theſe ties of friendſhip, thus ſuddenly contracted, eſtabliſh an openneſs of heart, which is the life and ſoul of ſociety, and renders it inexpreſſibly delightful. As our converſation turned upon this agreeable topic, my friend, in the moſt courteous manner, told me, that he would do himſelf the pleaſure to introduce me into ſuch company as I ſhould immediately be delighted with. When I firſt came to the Spa, I was a perfect ſtranger, and without one ſingle acquaintance; but no ſooner had I reſided there a few days, but I met with perſons enough whoſe company was abſolutely charming; moſt of whom were viſiters upon a party of

of pleaſure, and with no other view than to partake of the amuſements of the place. He named ſeveral of them, with whom he had contracted an intimate acquaintance. To me it plainly appears, added he, that you and I were deſigned by nature for friendly companions, though our intimacy is of ſo late a date: one while we viſit each other, continued he, and communicate our adventures and free ſentiments one to another; and entruſt each other with ſome little anecdotes, or ſecret amours, in the free diſcovery whereof there is ſomething infinitely engaging; at another time, we dine together, and ſeldom fail of meeting at breakfaſt. At other times, we join with mixed company, with whom mere accident, or an inclination to vary our amuſements, engages us into a party of gaming in our own apartments, or walking with a ſet of friends in the fields, and reaping the ſweets of the freſh air: by purſuing our pleaſures in ſo various a manner, we make that regimen, which we obſerve in the drinking the waters, as agreeable as poſſible: we are perpetually in a ſtate of indolence and inaction; and yet ſtill our time ſeems to be wholly taken up. Thus each day, at the Spa, runs, as it were, upon wheels, and flies away with a velocity not to be expreſſed: and notwithſtanding we meet there with ſtrangers of different nations, fortunes, and tempers, yet every one behaves, in point of converſation and good manners, with all the freedom and eaſe that can poſſibly be conceived. The commerce, or intercourſe, which one gentleman or lady has with another,

another, whether it be at the public aſſemblies, or whether in private parties of pleaſure, is extremely engaging. This perfect freedom, courteſy and complaiſance, conſtitute, as it were, an amicable ſociety amongſt the water-drinkers; and that liberty, which every one takes of finding out particular company ſuitable to his taſte and inclination, attracts, it is highly probable, more ſtrangers to the place, than even the good qualities and ſurpriſing virtues of the waters.

After this ſhort harangue which my friend made, in order to give me ſome adequate idea of that ſympathy of tempers, and that eaſe and freedom which ever reign at the Spa, he aſked me if no particular or private buſineſs engaged me at my lodgings; and propoſed, if it ſuited me, to act the part of my gentleman uſher, and introduce me directly to ſome of his moſt intimate companions. I returned him many thanks for his courteous offer, but begged that he would poſtpone that polite and agreeable office to the next day: For after I have returned my viſit to the baron de G——, and ſome others of my intimate acquaintance, ſaid I to him, I would willingly improve the remainder of the day to the beſt advantage by writing ſome letters, which I am under an abſolute neceſſity of diſpatching; in order that I may then drink the waters free from care and the leaſt inqutuiede. You are perfectly, Sir, ſaid he, in the right: for during the courſe of drinking the waters, people are naturally inclined to be drowſy: the

waters affect the head; and for that reaſon, the leaſt ſerious application to ſtudy or buſineſs creates a kind of heavineſs, which is not only very diſagreeable and incommodious, but the effects of it too often prove pernicious, and of fatal conſequence. Between breakfaſt and dinner there is no poſſibility of finding time for writing letters, or ſending anſwers to correſpondents; it is the moſt improper time that can be thought of; neither ſhould one write upon any topic that requires too cloſe an application; and that your phyſician will tell you, if you have any indiſpoſition upon you that requires his judgment and advice. As to that article, replied I, that conſultation is over.

Our chit-chat thus concluded, we were upon the point of moving: my friend propoſed to return to his quarters, and I to go abroad about private buſineſs. No ſooner had we roſe from our ſeats, than I took my ſword in my hand. Upon that, he told me, that the cuſtom of wearing ſwords at the Spa was totally prohibited, except on the firſt day of arrival, or the laſt upon a departure: there is not a ſingle perſon, ſaid he, be his quality or diſtinction what it may, but readily ſubmits to this injunction. There is only one caſe or circumſtance to be mentioned where it is indulged; and that is, upon the payment of the firſt and laſt viſits, which are made to princes of the blood royal. Whereupon I begged the favour of him to inform me of the origin, and the reaſons alledged for the confirmation of that cuſ-

tom. My friend aſſured me 'twas prohibited for the prevention of any ſudden riot or diſorder, that might caſually ariſe in a place where gallantry, intrigues, and other amuſements of the like nature, were indulged, and practiſed even to exceſs; and where there would be juſt grounds to fear the ill conſequences that might poſſibly attend a free and unlimited converſe between perſons of different nations, as well as tempers, who aſſembled there together, provided the uſe of arms was not, by cuſtom, abſolutely reſtrained; whereas, as the caſe now ſtands, if a diſpute happens to ariſe, there is time allowed for cooling the paſſions, and for the warmth of a ſudden reſentment to meet with a prudent check, when the party provoked muſt have recourſe to his chamber, in order to equip himſelf with his ſword, or any other military weapon. I readily acknowledged, that the precaution was very juſt and proper, and returned him many thanks for his friendly hint, and left my ſword behind me.

After that, he acquainted me with another general cuſtom, of a quite different nature, and the very reverſe of that juſt before mentioned, with which, as 'tis perfectly agreeable, I am firmly perſuaded, ſaid he, you will very readily comply. Though the whole multitude, at the Spa, are under a general and indiſcriminate reſtriction from wearing their ſwords; every one furniſhes himſelf with a cane, ſtick, or a kind of crutch neatly poliſhed, as you yourſelf obſerved, when you ſaw the croud at the wells: ſuch canes,

ſticks, or crutches, are extremely commodious; for, as the drinking the waters requires a perpetual motion, as it were, and the pavement to the walks is ſo rugged and uneven; 'tis a point of judgment that directs every one to have recourſe to thoſe kinds of friendly ſupport and aſſiſtance.

The proprietors, however, of the Pouhon ſpring began (in the year 1761) to amend and improve their pavements, and propoſe annually to continue thoſe neceſſary repairs with a ſpecies of brown free-ſtone, of which a quarry has lately been diſcovered near the town, upon the mountain at the lower end of the Seven-o'-clock walk. Theſe ſtones are cut in a more regular and uniform manner than thoſe irregular flint-ſtones dragged up from the bottom of the river, with which their ſtreets before that time were uſually paved.

As to the crutches made uſe of at the Spa, they are ſold at all the toy-ſhops, or at the painters, of which profeſſion there are ſeveral in the town. Accordingly, my friend and I ſtept into one of them, that was ſituate juſt by his inn; where I made a purchaſe of one, in order to qualify myſelf to commence a member of the Boblinic ſociety. I had an opportunity there of looking over a variety of other toys, or little trifles, of divers kinds, painted and well poliſhed, which ſtruck my fancy; but I reſerved the reviſal of them to a more leiſure hour.

We

We took our leave of each other at the ſhop-door: my friend went to his quarters, and I about my own private affairs. Before we parted, however, we agreed to viſit each other as often as convenience would permit; and to uſe our utmoſt endeavour to render our reſidence at the Spa, in all reſpects, as amuſing and agreeable as poſſibly we could. After this mutual contract, I ſpent the remainder of the morning in paying the viſits I propoſed. Thoſe ceremonies over, I returned to my inn, but ordered my dinner to be brought to my private apartment, notwithſtanding the preſſing perſuaſions of my friend, who lodged in the ſame inn, to dine at the public ordinary with the landlord. After dinner I had time ſufficient to diſcharge all the material buſineſs that lay heavy upon my hands. In the evening I took a tour about the environs; but finding myſelf fatigued with the hurry and buſtle of the preceding day, I withdrew to my lodgings betimes; that is to ſay, by day-light. The next day I ſet out before ſix in the morning, in order to be duly prepared for drinking the waters. Accordingly I ſtept in at the apothecary's, and purchaſed a *quantum ſufficit* of ſalts; for I thought it a more prudent way to apply to one of the profeſſion, than to diſſolve them myſelf. There are two of the trade adjoining to each other, at a very ſmall diſtance from the Pouhon well. I made choice of that ſhop which ſtood neareſt; I mean,

that of the Sieur Deleau, who, in the opinion of the connoiſſeurs, is looked upon as an adept, and a very curious man in the way of his profeſſion. He ſerved me himſelf with as much ſalts as I required; as alſo with ſome orange chips, and the index, or dial, cuſtomarily uſed at the wells, as a memorandum of the number of glaſſes to be drank. Of theſe kind of toys, he had numbers of different ſorts; ſome made of ivory at the price of twenty, or twenty-five pence a-piece; others of mother of pearl, from the price of a crown to a ducat. However, I made choice of one at twenty-five pence, including the ribband affixed for hanging it on one of my buttons; and, as to my orange chips, I put them into a box of bergamot, neatly painted. Of them, likewiſe, he had numbers of various ſorts; ſome are made of *papier-maché* upon a white ground, neatly poliſhed; others of plain bergamot unpoliſhed; and others again of neat, but plain box-wood, for ſuch as were not over-curious in their choice.

Whilſt I was furniſhing myſelf with theſe preparatory bagatelles, who ſhould come into the ſhop but my friend, accompanied with the baron de G----, and ſome other gentlemen of their acquaintance! They all reprimanded, and upbraided me with indolence and inactivity, aſſuring me I was the laſt viſiter of the well; but to wipe off that reproach, I told them, that as I had but few glaſſes to drink, and being determined to viſit no other ſpring that day, I did not

not think that I was under the leaſt obligation to deprive myſelf of a comfortable nap, as I was very ſleepy in the morning; and that I ſhould moſt certainly have hugged my pillow longer than I did, had not it been for the buſtle and noiſe of the place, that prevented me: the company would fain have prevailed on me to go with them to the ſpring at Geronſtere; either then, or at leaſt on the next day. To that propoſition I replied, If my phyſician gave me his free aſſent, I ſhould with pleaſure embrace the opportunity of joining their party. Juſt as this matter was canvaſſing, in came the doctor, whom they willingly would have ſeduced; but he peremptorily inſiſted on my going to Sauveniere. Do but obſerve now, ſays the baron, the policy of theſe Spa phyſicians, and how artfully they divide the company, in order to give a better ſanction, and a greater regard to their myſterious method of preſcribing the waters. Now, ſaid the phyſician, I would very readily undertake, good Monſieur Le Baron, to demonſtrate to you, that there was no juggle or artifice, no ſecret policy, in our making ſo neceſſary a diviſion, was not I fully perſuaded, that you are convinced, in your own mind, of the contrary. But let your conviction be as it may, in regard to the different qualities of thoſe two ſprings; you yourſelf would be the foremoſt in upbraiding the phyſicians with want of knowledge, and true diſcernment, were they to make no eſſential difference between the two ſprings, according to the different diſ-

orders which their reſpective patients might labour under. This was a home-puſh to the baron, who, having begun, of his own accord and choice, to drink the waters of Geronſtere; but, having had an eruption, or breaking out, accomnied with a fever, had been, by advice, remanded, or ſent back to the ſpring at Sauveniere, for a week, or ten days ſucceſſively, for his recovery. Thus, conſcious to himſelf of the ſecret ſeverity of the phyſician's juſt rebuke, he made the following cold reply; that he was not in the humour to ſally out with the faculty, or to queſtion their ſuperior judgment in ſo eſſential an article; and to teſtify his regard to the doctor's opinion, he would go directly, and drink his laſt glaſs; and exhorted us all to do the ſame. We followed his advice: afterwards, indeed, the company ſteered their courſe to Geronſtere; but the doctor the other way. I was in hopes, that the proſpect I had of meeting with my lawyer, or interpreter, at Pouhon, would have made me ſome recompence, or compenſation, for my unexpected diſappointment; but unfortunately, for ſome reaſons beſt known to himſelf, he neglected his attendance there all that day.

I ſpent my time there, however, in walking about the grounds; but made a halt at the ſoft, or ſweet ſpring, which is ſituate at the upper end of the Pouhon walk. The water that iſſues from that ſpring through three aqueducts, or waterſpouts, and the peculiar ſtructure of the fountain itſelf, ſtrikes the eye agreeably enough, and has

has a very good effect, whether you take your ſurvey of it at the Pouhon well, or at the walk that fronts it.

The baſe, or foot, of that fountain is compoſed of free-ſtone in the form of a pyramid, on which are fixed three large frogs, all of braſs, with a diverſity of foliage in the ſame metal: the ſtream iſſues out of the mouths of theſe frogs, which ſtand about ten foot above the level, or ſurface of the pedeſtal; and theſe jets, or ſpouts, pour their waters into a ſpacious baſon, where there are four cocks, by means whereof the water flows, or trickles down into four troughs, or receptacles, compoſed of ſhell-work, which are always full, and from whence the waters are exhauſted. This group of figures is terminated by a ſtep, which each frog bears upon his back. On each of theſe ſteps is fixed a pine-apple, and upon that a croſs. Theſe three laſt-mentioned decorations are all braſs-work, curiouſly gilt, which adds a luſtre to their appearance. All this heap, or collection of figures, which are about ſixteen or ſeventeen foot in height, are ſurrounded with iron rails, in which are four gates, or apertures, purpoſely contrived for the admittance of thoſe who want to make uſe of the fountain.

To form an adequate idea of the quality of this ſpring from its proximity, or nearneſs, in point of ſituation, to the Pouhon well, one would naturally imagine, that it ſhould be im-

pregnated, in ſome degree at leaſt, with its mineral particles; but, in fact, 'tis the lighteſt, ſofteſt, and moſt tranſparent water that ever was ſeen; inſomuch that there is not the leaſt ſaline ſcurf, or cruſt, viſible upon any of the pots, kettles, or other veſſels, in which this water is boiled, though for year after year; a quality both rare and ſingular, and which diſtinguiſhes it from almoſt every other ſpring the whole country can boaſt of. This peculiar quality or virtue, however, will appear leſs ſurpriſing, when the ſtranger is more fully apprized of the real fact: for, notwithſtanding the proximity of thoſe two fountains, their ſeveral ſources, or heads, are ſituate at a conſiderable diſtance; that is to ſay, at two different mountains, or hills; and even interſected by the river; the ſweet fountain's head proceeding ſouth-eaſt, from a ſpot of ground, called Boſſet meadow, which is near a mile diſtant from the town, from whence its ſtreams are conveyed to the well, by means of proper aqueducts, or ſubterraneous pipes, quite under the river, tho' above the town; whereas the Pouhon ſpring of mineral waters flows on the north-eaſt ſide, from a mountain, or high hill, that is exactly level with, and of the very ſame height as, Boſſet meadow.

As I was thus amuſing myſelf with taking this ſurvey of the ſtructure of that ſweet fountain, a perſon paſſed by me, whom I took for one of the attendants of that well; and therefore

fore begged the favour of him to explain to me the meaning of that group of figures, which adorned the ſtructure; that is to ſay, the frogs, the braſs plates on their backs, the pine-apple, and the croſs over it; for I preſumed that they were expreſſive of, or alluded to, ſomewhat that did not appear. He could not, I found, perfectly gratify my curioſity; but informed me, that, in his opinion, the pine-apple was nothing more than a mere decoration, and that the croſs upon it was the univerſal emblem of the Chriſtian religion. 'Tis poſſible, Sir, continued he, I may be miſtaken; but I never met with, or heard of, any other explication. As to the ſteps affixed to the backs of the frogs, they are marks of, or alluſions to, that dependence which the place has on the country of Liege, whoſe arms are on thoſe ſteps, ſupported by three or four lions; but as thoſe inhabitants of the deſerts would have made a prepoſterous figure in a ſtructure of that kind, the architect ſubſtituted the frogs in their ſtead, as having a more natural alluſion, I ſuppoſe, to the element, in which thoſe animals take delight principally to reſide.

No ſooner had I turned my back upon the fountain, but I perceived a conſiderable number of atchievements, or coats of arms, ranged in the form of a croſs, and fixed up in one corner of an old deſpicable building, called the Hall, or Town-houſe; on the top whereof are the Imperial arms; at the bottom, thoſe of England;

in

in the centre, the Bavarian arms; and on each ſide, thoſe of France and Spain; all which bore date, and were erected there, in the year 1674.

The Bavarian arms are thoſe of prince Maximilian Henry, who at that time was biſhop and prince of Liege: thoſe of the other ſovereigns are placed there as a public mark or teſtimony of that ſafeguard and protection which they have granted to the inhabitants of the Spa, and to all ſuch foreigners as viſit that place, in order to drink its ſalutary waters.

As I was thus deeply engaged in making all the remarks I could on what I thought worthy of notice, in regard either to the curioſity or antiquity of the place, as appeared on the ſpot; the next object that ſtruck my eye was a public houſe, known by the ſign of the *Wolf*, the front whereof is embelliſhed with divers coats of arms: and, amongſt the reſt, I obſerved not only the arms, but the name likewiſe of Charles the Second, king of England, who honoured the Spa with a perſonal viſit in the year 1654. Theſe atchievements, or arms, are the remains of an antient cuſtom obſerved by the inhabitants, who hung up over their reſpective doors the particular arms of ſuch princes, or other illuſtrious perſonages, who had lodged there, with the date of the year in which they honoured them with their preſence; in order to give an exalted idea, not only of the ſalutary virtues of theſe waters, but of the great conveniencies of

their reſpective apartments; and by that means preſerving the remembrance of thoſe illuſtrious perſonages who had viſited the place from time to time. That cuſtom, however, at preſent, is totally aboliſhed; they are now to be ſeen no where but upon a few old-faſhioned buildings. The landlords, who have rebuilt their houſes within theſe thirty years paſt, have, by degrees, removed th ſe diſtinguiſhing marks, or coats of arms, to a diſtant place, where the greater part of them are ſtill to be ſeen. If thoſe particular decorations gave the curious any agreeable amuſement, and afforded them ſometimes a favourable opportunity of converſing about thoſe perſons of diſtinction whoſe memory they in ſome meaſure preſerved; the advantageous reparations and improvements made to ſome of the buildings, and the many fine houſes that have been wholly new-built, afford ſtrangers an amuſement much more agreeable, and ſurpriſingly enhance the beauty of the place.

Now theſe looſe manuſcripts, or memorandums, being duly peruſed, the Count addreſſed himſelf to the Counſellor in words to the following effect: If we may form a right idea of your whole journal, by the ſpecimen which we have thus carefully peruſed, in my humble opinion, your undertaking will not only prove entertaining and inſtructive to all ſuch gentlemen and ladies who viſit the Spa, in order to reap the ſalutary benefits of the waters; but

but it ſeems to me a curious amuſement, even to ſuch as never propoſe to viſit the place, by the anecdotes, and intereſting incidents which you have introduced into your account; as alſo by your drawings, or views, of the walls and fountains now in uſe, which are ſo accurate and diſtinct, that they convey a pleaſing idea of the place. That of the Pouhon well, and the ſtreet in which it is ſituated in particular, ſhews that Spa is much better built than I could really have imagined. The place ſeems, in ſhort, capable of vying, in point of extent, pompous ſtructures, and invaluable privileges, with any city in all Europe. Oh! but Monſieur le Count, replied the Chevalier, there are great deductions, or allowances, to be made in thoſe accounts, or at leaſt in ſome of the articles you have juſt mentioned. The painter, no doubt, prejudiced to exceſs in favour of the place, has been guilty of ſome exaggerations, and particularly in regard to its extent. In moſt other reſpects, I will allow the plan to be accurate and correct; and, moreover, that the town is, in reality, a very fine and ſpacious place. Your critical remark, Sir, replied the Counſellor, has too much truth and juſtice in it, I muſt own, to be fairly diſputed; but then tell me where is the painter to be found, who will not flatter a little the object he is to repreſent, be it what it may, and ſet it in the faireſt and moſt advantageous point of light? — As the whole is a natural repreſentation,

preſentation, and the only fault that can with juſtice be laid to his charge, is the liberty he has taken to extend the place, and enlarge the two ſides of it, in order only to ſtrike the eye more agreeably, I did not think him ſo blame-worthy, as to obſtruct him in the proſecution of that deſign. He has taken, however, another piece of freedom, which I cannot ſo perfectly approve of, as totally to connive at it; and that is, though, towards the bottom of the place, from whence the plan or proſpect is taken, the hall belonging to the Pouhon well, which he has repreſented, is not, in fact, to be ſeen in that part; yet, as it was highly requiſite ſo remarkable a place ſhould not be totally concealed, I thought, upon mature deliberation, that it was more adviſable to tranſgreſs, in ſome meaſure, againſt the ſtated rules of perſpective, than to omit the repreſentation of a ſpot of ground that was ſo eſſential to the Spa. He has repreſented, however, nothing but what is real, and in ſuch a manner as, in fact, it actually exiſts. He has only aided and aſſiſted the imagination, by repreſenting it in ſuch a point of view, as any one might with eaſe form the ſame idea; for whoever has actually been upon the ſpot, cannot fail of repreſenting that hall as contiguous to the Pouhon well; and they would be apt to think it ſtrange, that it ſhould be totally omitted in the plan, notwithſtanding it does not exactly appear in that ſituation, when we are in reality upon the

ſpot.

ſpot. However, I think I may venture to ſay, that in all other reſpects, it is very accurate and correct. Thereupon the Count reſumed the diſcourſe, and ſaid, As we are now ſufficiently acquainted (thanks to the Counſellor) with all the preliminary articles relative to the Spa, let us ſettle and adjuſt the time for our departure; and, without any farther information, let us reſerve the pleaſure of ſome ſurpriſe, in regard to the particular curioſities that we may poſſibly meet with upon the road; ſince in any particular caſe that may require an immediate explication, we can but refer ourſelves to the Counſellor's journal.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

On the City of Liege; *the Form of its Government*; *the Bagnio's of* Chaufontaine, *or the Hot-Wells*; *and of divers Cuſtoms peculiar to that Country.*

NO ſooner was the journey to the Spa concluded, and agreed on, but all parties made the proper preparations. It was unanimouſly agreed to take the Liege road, in order to embrace the opportunity of bathing at Chaufontaine. No company could poſſibly be happier: the Count is a gentleman perfectly affable and obliging, and very open-hearted; the Chevalier, and the good lady his ſiſter, are univerſally admired for the delicacy of their ſentiments, and their polite deportment; and the Counſellor, not only an adept in his own profeſſion, but has great genius, and the moſt exquiſite taſte for every other branch of polite literature. Theſe qualities, theſe ſhining accompliſhments, thus happily united, could not fail of creating a harmony in their tempers, and rendering the intended journey perfectly delightful. As the reſtoration of their health was not the only motive of their viſit to the Spa, every article that offered was acceptable, that promoted their

amuſement, or gave them information of any thing, either curious, intereſting, or inſtructive.

Not one of the party had any acquaintance at Liege; for which reaſon they tarried there no longer than juſt to take a tour round the place, and a tranſient view of its principal buildings. The Counſellor, however, had been at Liege before, and was very little to ſeek in regard to any article worthy of notice. They took up their quarters at one of the beſt inns, and almoſt in the heart of the city; and as they arrived there by four or five in the afternoon, they ſpent the remainder of the day in taking their tour.

The city of Liege is very large and populous, and a place of conſiderable traffic. It may ſtand in competition with moſt of the cities in thoſe parts. 'Tis very commodiouſly ſituated on the Meuſe, which runs a-croſs the length of it, and divides it in the principal part; and that may, with propriety, be termed the city; and in another part of leſs note, which may be looked upon as the ſuburbs, or that quarter which is above, or beyond the Meuſe. The city, or principal part, is built in a very agreeable valley, on one ſide of a mountain, or high hill, which commands the north quarter, and on which the fort is erected.

There are two very commodious quays, one at Avroy, and the other at St. Leonard's gate: each of them is very agreeable, through the number of its ſtately trees, and its ſituation on the banks of the Meuſe. Theſe are the two walks

walks that the inhabitants can principally boaſt of, for they have not ſo much as one ſingle garden.

As to their houſes, though ſome of them, indeed, make a very good appearance, and are furniſhed elegantly enough within; yet the generality of them are but indifferent, and have only few conveniencies to boaſt of: the ſtreets are, for the moſt part, regular enough; but in caſe they are brought into competition with thoſe of Holland, or Brabant, they make a moſt pitiful figure, as they are principally inhabited by tradeſmen, and greatly incommoded by a number of coal-carts.

The palace, however, the churches, and the town-houſe, are all juſt objects of obſervation. The palace, which, in the year 1734, was unhappily reduced to aſhes by fire, was rebuilt in 1738. It now makes a fine appearance, and is very ſpacious, and all the apartments are grand and magnificent: the town-houſe likewiſe may juſtly be termed a curious building, and well worthy of notice; and the veſtible or porch, in particular, is allowed to be executed in a high taſte. There is likewiſe a public library, more remarkable for the judicious choice of its books than the number of them: they have a chance of being augmented, according to the taſte of the acting burgho-maſters, who have a right and title to make what improvements they think convenient during the limited time of their adminiſtration. It is always open on Tueſdays and Thurſdays.

When the company had taken a tranſient ſurvey of thoſe two curious edifices, they returned to their inn: and as it happened to be Saturday night, part of their ſupper was ſoup-maigre, in compliance with the cuſtom of the country; for the inhabitants in general are rigid Roman catholics; but after that, ſuch a delicate diſh of fiſh was brought to table, that the abſtinence from fleſh could, with no propriety, be deemed any ſevere mortification. Beſides, the inhabitants of Liege are no ſtrangers to polite eating; and, as to their drinking, they are, for the generality, ſtigmatized with the character of carouſing to exceſs. That, however, is a foible they are addicted to in common with their neighbours, the natives of Flanders. Beer is the cuſtomary liquor of the country; and, to do them juſtice, 'tis excellent in its kind. Their climate will not afford them any large quantity of wine; and that which it does produce is not in great repute, though, in ſome places, it muſt be allowed, one may be ſupplied with ſuch as are exceeding good: however, they have plenty enough of foreign wines; but then a ſtranger runs a great riſk of being ſerved with adulterated liquors, if he has no character of the merchant, of whom he buys them. As to proviſions, the country is plentifully ſupplied with all ſorts; the Meuſe, and the other leſſer rivers, which diſcharge their waters into it, abound in a vaſt variety of fine fiſh; and their markets are ſupplied with large quantities of ſea-fiſh. On the other hand, the country farmers round

round about them (as their grounds, for the generality, are very fertile) furniſh them, not only with butchers meat, but with poultry, and wild-fowl in plenty; as the reader will be eaſily convinced from our travellers next day's entertainment.

That day happened to prove Eaſter Sunday: nothing could well fall out more fortunately; for every church was then to be ſeen in all its pomp and ſplendor. In the morning they viſited the cathedral, the collegiate churches of St. Paul, St. James, and divers others, which were the principal, and the moſt richly embelliſhed. The luſtre of gold, ſilver, and precious ſtones, as well as the beauty of marble monuments, and fine pictures, are ſo many objects that ſtrike the eyes of the curious, in the moſt agreeable manner, who viſit any of the churches in Liege; moſt of which are very magnificent, and ſome of them but lately rebuilt.

In the afternoon the company ſet out for Chaufontaine, or the Hot wells, which are ſituate at about two leagues diſtance. This little ſpot, or village, ſtands upon the Veſdre, a river that runs into the Meuſe; by which means there is a daily paſſage to it by water, in barges, when the weather is fine and open. As 'tis ſomewhat troubleſome and diſagreeable, however, to go up the river againſt tide, and get over the dykes, or flood-gates, of which there are numbers, and eſpecially in a dry ſummer, when there is a deficiency of water; 'tis in that caſe, indeed, moſt adviſeable to go thither

in ſome machine. The road-way, which is cut through the rock, and kept in good repair, is agreeable enough. We were informed, that the ſtates of the country propoſe to make a cauſe-way there acroſs the country.

As the river is very rapid, and the bed of it very ſtony, thoſe who viſit Chaufontaine in their chariots, frequently ſend their ſervants back, and return to Liege themſelves by water, in order to amuſe themſelves by ſhooting down the ſeveral caſcades, which the barge muſt inevitably fall thro' in its paſſage home. And the gentry the rather make choice of this paſſage, becauſe they frequently meet with extraordinary good company, and have the additional pleaſure of viewing the fine rural landſcapes, and other caſual proſpects, that preſent themſelves at different times upon the river.

On their firſt arrival, the company alighted at the grand bagnio, which is the principal inn in the whole village, where a multitude of viſiters are commodiouſly lodged, and very elegantly entertained; for they have plenty of proviſions of all ſorts brought to them daily from Liege. It happened that, at that time, (being the holy-days) there was a great deal of company in the houſe, that came out of the city: but as the inn is very ſpacious, they were ſoon accommodated with a private apartment to their liking, and according to their particular deſire. After dinner they agreed to take a tour upon the little walk, which runs along the bank of the river, and at but a very ſmall diſtance from the inn, where they met with

with abundance of good company; amongſt whom there happened to be a canon, with whom the Counſellor had contracted a familiar acquaintance at the Spa. They mutually made their compliments, and reciprocally teſtified a more than common pleaſure and ſatisfaction on ſo unexpected an interview. The Canon immediately made his addreſs to the reſt of the company, and introduced them into his own; that is to ſay, to a canon, a near relation of his, and one belonging to the cathedral, who are the primary, or ſuperior canons, and diſtinguiſhed by the title of treſonciers; as alſo to one of the prince's counſellors, and his conſort, a very amiable and worthy lady, and ſiſter to the canon. Immediately after theſe ſalutations were over, they congratulated each other on account of this lucky rencounter, and new acquaintance; and ſeemed tranſported, as it were, with the thoughts of being ſuch near neighbours, and lodgers in the ſame inn. They ſent one of their valets directly to the landlord, to let him know, that the two companies had propoſed to ſup together. As ſoon as the meſſenger was diſpatched, they renewed their walk, and entered into a very agreeable and familiar converſe.

Theſe caſual rencounters, or interviews, have ſomething ſo entertaining and delightful in them, that 'tis not in the power of words to expreſs the pleaſure they create. They mutually, with eagerneſs, aſk each other a thouſand trivial queſtions; to which immediate replies are, with all the cour-

teſy and complaiſance imaginable, returned. They tell between them an hundred little ſtories, of no great importance, it is true; and yet trivial as they are, they render the company perfectly happy, and agreeable beyond expreſſion. Our travellers acquainted their new companions with ſome anecdotes relative to the Spa; and the Liegeſe gentry, in return, acquainted them with the virtues and agreeable qualities of their favourite bagnio's. This ſort of diſcourſe took up a great part of their time, and proved ſufficiently intereſting and agreeable to all parties. The Count, however, charmed, as it were, with the various fine proſpects that offered themſelves to their view, all round about them, was perfectly laviſh of his encomiums on the happy ſituation of ſo ſmall a hamlet, which lies in ſuch an agreeable valley, upon the banks of the Veſdre. Though 'tis very ſmall, there are ſeveral handſome buildings in it; but that of the grand bagnio, their inn, in particular, is a very ſpacious and delightful edifice. This little hamlet is exceedingly pretty, as well as pleaſant; there is ſcarce any village that can boaſt of ſuch fine proſpects, as are there preſented to view on every ſide. Thus, from theſe natural beauties, 'tis become the common and favourite walk, and place of rendezvous for the gentlemen and ladies of the city of Liege, who make frequent parties of pleaſure there, and keep up the credit and reputation of thoſe refreſhing bagnio's. The canons, in particular, thoſe treſonciers above mentioned,

tioned, in ſhort, make it their country houſe. There are multitudes of people that flock thither (on Sundays in particular) with no other view than to take a dinner there. Many of the viſiters go into the bagnio's before dinner, and make that an excuſe for their frequenting the houſe; at leaſt, it muſt be allowed to be an agreeable amuſement. Others, however, chuſe to dine firſt, and defer going into their bagnio's till towards the evening, in order to refreſh themſelves before their departure. The Liegeſe gentry propoſed to go directly, and enjoy the pleaſures of the bagnio; but our travellers, and new viſiters, were more inclined to poſtpone that amuſement till the next day. The canons, however, over-perſuaded them to embrace the preſent hour; nothing being more proper to recreate them after the fatigue of their journey, and to refreſh their ſpirits, after they had undergone ſo long the ſultry heat of the day.

The gentlemen there conduct the ladies to their very bagnio's, when duly prepared for them, and then withdraw to their own. About ſeven o' clock the company make their appearance again, and return to their inn, to partake of their ſupper, which they eat with that peculiar appetite which the bagnio naturally creates, and with that gaiety of temper which is natural to a good-natured and polite company, in a place where every thing conſpires to promote innocent mirth and paſtime.

The beauties of the place, and the delight that naturally ariſes from the enjoyment of good company, tempted our travellers to ſpend a whole day there; whereupon it was unanimouſly reſolved, not to ſet out for the Spa till the Tueſday following. Their firſt amuſement, the next morning, was the bath. After that, having regaled themſelves with as much chocolate as they thought proper, they ſet out directly, in order to take a view of the ſeveral baths, or medicinal ſprings, there; whereof there are thirteen, and each of a different ſize. The waters are conveyed into them through leaden pipes, into which they are raiſed by means of divers pumps, which are kept in motion by an engine, or wheel, erected on an arm of the river, and by ſome additional machines that work them.

The Count (addreſſing himſelf to the Canon) deſired to know, whether thoſe bagnio's, or baths, had been in vogue for any conſiderable time; to which he immediately replied, The diſcovery of thoſe hot waters, in this place, is of antient date, as is evident, I think, from the name it ſtill bears, and has done, time almoſt immemorial. 'Tis not, however, above fifty years paſt, at moſt, ſince they were firſt made uſe of in a medicinal way. As they had no great degree of heat at firſt, or, at leaſt, comparatively ſpeaking with the waters of Aix, they were doubtleſs neglected, or held in contempt, rather than eſteemed as baths, for the cure of any chronic diſorders; and, for aught I know to the contrary, they might

might have continued in diſrepute to this very day, had not a poor fellow, overwhelmed, as it were, with misfortunes, took it in his head to be laviſh in his encomiums on their ſingular virtues. He proclaimed, wherever he went, as well as to his neighbours, their miraculous effects, and erected accordingly a deſpicable, mean-looking hut, with a few ſmall bathing-places in it for his daily ſubſiſtence: his plan or project, however, met with ſucceſs beyond his moſt ſanguine expectations. In order to give it ſtill a farther ſanction, he procured divers perſons, with more faith than their neighbours, to atteſt the almoſt miraculous cures which they had, from time to time, effected: and, in ſhort, by their evidences, and other ſecret artifices, the Chaufontaine waters grew gradually into high repute. People then, indeed, would frequently complain of their want of heat: whereupon the old gentleman (as the landlord was then called) took a ſufficient quantity of the ſame water, and boiled it in a large copper, and threw into his baths a *quantum ſufficit* of ſuch hot water, in hopes to remove the objection: the contrivance, in all reſpects, anſwered the end propoſed: their fame daily encreaſed, as numbers of people boldly aſſerted that they had received great benefit from the uſe of them, even in chronic diſorders. In ſhort, their reputation gaining ground thus every day, the prince of Liege, conſcious to himſelf of the infinite advantage that would accrue to the public from a general uſe of theſe medicinal waters, in the

year

year 1713, gave ſtrict orders for proper labourers to be employed in digging trenches round the ſource, or fountain-head, of theſe warm waters, in order that no cold ſpring, for the future, ſhould intermix with them, as was greatly ſuſpected at that time to be the real caſe, and depreciate their innate virtues. Experience juſtified the prudence of that precaution, and crowned the project with the deſired ſucceſs. Upon this, a gentleman-farmer of good fortune, recollecting that theſe ſalutary waters iſſued from an adjacent mountain, and trickled down one of his ſpacious meadows, made it his firſt buſineſs to procure privately the privileges that he deemed requiſite from the government, or chamber of accounts; and then ſet labourers to work, and, in proceſs of time, found the ſpring, not only to flow very plentifully, but with a degree of heat beyond his expectations; inſomuch that he came at length to a reſolution of building that ſpacious inn, where it now ſtands, called the Grand bagnio, or Chaufontaine houſe. No ſooner was it erected, but whole crouds flocked to it from Liege, and the parts adjacent; and ſtrangers likewiſe (as the report flew apace) being informed, not only of the virtues of the waters, but of the caſual beauties of the place, moſt people, who had before been accuſtomed to viſit the Spa, would make Chaufontaine in their way, notwithſtanding the road was then miſerably bad, and there was no paſſage for any kind of machines, or vehicles whatſoever. Multitudes of people, however,

ever, continuing to reſort thither, and the place proving ſuch an agreeable amuſement to the inhabitants of Liege in general, the ſtates came to a reſolution to cut a paſſage through the rock, and make that road for chariots, and other machines, which now travel thither daily. I always thought, ſaid the Chevalier, that Chauſontaine had been only a pleaſure-houſe, and that its waters had in reality no peculiar innate virtues to boaſt of; but I now perceive, that I have hitherto entertained a wrong idea of it, and that they prove highly ſerviceable in the relief of divers diſorders; or, at leaſt, that they are excellent preparatives for ſuch invalids, in particular, who reſort to the Spa for the reſtoration of their health. Whilſt the company were engaged in this converſation, about their peculiar virtues and effects, a doctor of phyſic, a gentleman of great practice, and known abilities, and an intimate acquaintance of one of the canons, joined them very opportunely: to him therefore they unanimouſly applied, and begged the favour of him to explain the peculiar qualities and virtues of thoſe waters. Gentlemen, replied the doctor, I muſt deal ingenuouſly with you, and frankly confeſs, that I have made no ſtrict, or minute reſearches into their innate qualities myſelf; but I will give you my opinion of them very freely, and without the leaſt reſerve: this I know, gentlemen, in general, that they depoſit, or leave behind them, either at the bottom of the ſeveral wells, or at their ſource, an earthy ſubſtance, of an unctuous, or oily nature, the taſte

taſte whereof is ſomewhat like that of brimſtone; which plainly demonſtrates (as the celebrated Mr. Chronet has found by experience, in his diſtillation of a ſimple and taſteleſs water from them, which, nevertheleſs, retained the ſmell of ſulphur) that they have a ſulphureous quality; but in ſo ſmall a quantity, or under ſo ſubtile a form, that no one hitherto has diſcovered any method of collecting it, ſo as to be obvious, or ſenſible to the touch: theſe waters, moreover, have ſomewhat of a ſaline taſte, and will give even the ſyrop of violets a green tincture, which evidently demonſtrates that 'tis an alkaline ſalt; and the evaporation of it ſufficiently diſcovers its nature. The prevailing principle, however, of theſe waters is an earthy ſubſtance; thick cruſts, or ſcurfs whereof may be collected, or broken off, from the leaden pipes, which convey the hot waters into the baths. On this one of the company obſerved, that it did not appear any way obvious to him, that thoſe principles, which the doctor had been ſpeaking of, could prove capable of having any conſiderable influences, or effects. Whatever you may imagine, Sir, replied the doctor, the Borcet waters, juſt by Aix-la-chapelle, which are in ſuch high eſteem, have no other principles, and carry along with them no other ſulphureous qualities, than their vapours, equally impalpable; and yet there is no one but muſt be convinced of the wonderful cures which thoſe waters daily perform. 'Tis my private opinion, however, that ſuch great cures are more owing

to

to the wonderful effects of thoſe waters themſelves, which have ſuch a ſurpriſing influence on the patient, through their preſſure, impulſion, penetration, and heat, than by the peculiar principles that are intermingled with the waters. From this opinion then of yours, doctor, replied one of the company, you put the waters of Chaufontaine upon a level, as to their virtues, with the moſt celebrated thermal, or hot waters, that the country can boaſt of; which, as I humbly conceive, muſt, doubtleſs, be deemed an heterodox doctrine by moſt gentlemen of the faculty. I am not inſenſible, Sir, replied the phyſician, that there is an eſſential difference between theſe and ſome other thermal waters; neither do I queſtion, in the leaſt, but there are ſome caſes, where the principles, both of the one and the other, make no kind of difference or variation in their effects. However, I muſt ſtill peremptorily maintain, that ſuch cures are, for the generality, more owing to the waters themſelves, and are relative to thoſe different qualities, by which, as I obſerved before, they principally act: and I am fully perſuaded, that experience would evince the truth of my ſyſtem, were they to make uſe of pumping, and ſudorific baths, at Chaufontaine, as they do at Aix, and other places.

Upon this peremptory aſſertion, one of the company aſked the doctor, whether he had made any particular remarks on the ſpring called the Gadot, which is another hot well, not above 150 paces, or yards, diſtant from the former. To which

which he directly anſwered in the negative: for, ſaid he, as thoſe waters have but a very ſmall degree of heat, they always appeared to me as waters altogether improper or unfit for baths: but beſides, he was the rather induced to give very little attention to them, conſidering the privilege which the government had granted to the Chaufontaine wells, excluſive of all others, and the proceedings at law, which have ſuſpended the uſe of the Gadot waters, have cauſed them to be univerſally diſregarded.

Upon this the company aſſured the phyſician, that they were all perfectly well ſatisfied with his account of the wells, as being ingenuous, open, and free; and, as a teſtimony of their approbation, begged the favour of his company at dinner. He readily accepted their friendly offer, and 'twas pretty late before they roſe from table. As ſoon as their entertainment was over, the phyſician took his leave, and the company agreed immediately to take a refreſhing walk in the adjacent wood, where there is generally a delightful breeze, and where 'tis cool, even at noon-day. This wood is ſituate at the foot of an adjacent mountain, or high hill, which ſkreens the viſiters from all the ſultry rays of the ſun; and the coolneſs thereof is greatly promoted by the ſhade of the trees, and by the rills of water which run trickling along from all ſides of the high rocks, in the form of petty caſcades, or little ſheets, as it were, of water, which are vaſtly agreeable

and

and amuſing. The beautiful front, and the other decorations, which a principal magiſtrate of the city of Liege erected there ſome years ago, diſperſe thoſe gentle and pleaſing waters into proper places, and render the proſpect extremely delightful. The murmur of the rills, which are as clear as cryſtal, together with the melody of the birds, make this rural receſs a moſt delightful walk; a place calculated, not only for contemplation on the beauties of nature, but on the peculiar taſte of art, which is ſo judiciouſly intermixed. Here the company ſat down, and our travellers congratulated their friends of Liege on their having ſuch an agreeable rural retreat to reſort to at their leiſure hours. After that, they took notice of the good taſte of the nation, and the various privileges and advantages they happily enjoyed; and from thence the converſation gradually turned on the laws, government, and the policy, or conduct of the country of Liege, in which Chaufontaine is a hamlet thereto belonging.

Though the clergy, for the moſt part, are too much addicted to indolence and eaſe, yet the *Treſoncier* and his brother *Canon* were exceptions to that general imputation: they entertained a natural averſion to it, were very cloſe ſtudents, well verſed in every branch of polite literature, and fond of all uſeful knowledge; amongſt which it is highly juſt and reaſonable, that a curious reſearch into the nature and conſtitution of their native country ſhould be the firſt object of their enquiry.

enquiry. The Counſellor likewiſe, who was brother-in-law to one of thoſe canons, was a gentleman, who reflected an honour on his profeſſion, and was one of the moſt diſtinguiſhed members of that court of judicature, to which he more peculiarly belonged. As the parties were all thus accompliſhed, there could not poſſibly occur a more favourable opportunity for their entering into a friendly debate on matters of ſo great importance. For the amuſement of the reader, therefore, I have made it my buſineſs to draw up, in ſome degree of order, a faithful and impartial abſtract of their converſation on that topic.

The country of Liege contains, or conſiſts of, three and twenty ſeveral cities, including the capital; and, according to the neareſt computation, fifteen hundred villages, or hamlets; all dependent on, or part of, the empire. 'Tis included in the circle of Weſtphalia, and conſtitutes a part of Lower Germany; the marquiſate of Franchimont, the county of Looz, and all thoſe ſeveral territories, which have been reunited to that epiſcopal principality, and lie contiguous to, or border upon, Brabant, the United Provinces, the dutchies of Gueldres, Luxembourg, Limbourg, and Juliers, the county of Namur, and to the country of Stavelot, in the Ardennes.

The city of Liege is the capital of that epiſcopal principality, and has been the uſual ſee of the biſhop, ever ſince it was firſt transferred thither by St. Hubert, about the commencement of the eighth

eighth century. It was only a village till that biſhop either conſtituted it a city, or actually rebuilt it.

The epiſcopal ſee had formerly been at Maeſtricht; and ſome time before that at Tonger, where 'twas firſt eſtabliſhed (as 'tis generally imagined) by St. Maternus, who was a diſciple of St. Peter, in the reign of either the Roman emperor Domitian, or of Nerva. From whence it appears, that the country of Liege was one of the firſt that embraced the Chriſtian religion.

The power and authority of the eccleſiaſtics, and their vaſt revenues in this country, make it, for the generality, accounted, and that without the leaſt partiality or prejudice, the paradiſe of prieſts.

The chapter of the cathedral, the canons whereof are dignified and diſtinguiſhed by the title of *Treſonciers*, has ever been looked upon as one of the moſt illuſtrious bodies corporate in all Europe, on account of the grandees who are the members thereof. No one can be admitted into that ſociety, unleſs he be a branch of ſome antient and noble family, or has ſpent five years ſucceſſively at ſome celebrated univerſity. This chapter likewiſe was firſt founded, or eſtabliſhed, at a very remarkable æra; that is to ſay, when pope Innocent the Second crowned the emperor Lothario in that cathedral, about the twelfth century, at which time that chapter conſiſted of two ſons of an emperor, nine ſons of kings, thirteen dukes, and the remaining members were all counts or barons.

The

The country is governed by an epiſcopal prince, and by three ſtates, or aſſemblies; that is to ſay, the primary, or firſt ſtate, which conſiſts of thoſe canons, or trefonciers, above mentioned; the ſecond, namely, the nobleſſe, or gentry; and the third, namely the commons, or repreſentatives of the people; who conſiſt of the burgho-maſters of Liege, and the other two and twenty cities belonging to the country. All reſolutions, before they can have the force or ſanction of a law, muſt have the unanimous aſſent of all the three ſtates, and afterwards be confirmed by the prince; and when a law is once ſo eſtabliſhed, it can never be repealed but by the ſame authority.

The aſſembly of theſe ſtates is not abſolutely fixt or determined. They have their deputies, however, who hold their ſittings in the palace, and conſtantly meet three times a week, beſides extraordinary occaſions. Theſe never convene the whole ſtates in a body, except ſome peculiar affairs of the laſt importance are upon the carpet, which they have not ſufficient power veſted in them to ſettle and adjuſt.

That body of deputies conſiſts of four of thoſe cathedral canons, or trefonciers, who are re-elected every three years, to repreſent the primary ſtates; of four gentlemen, to act on the part and behalf of the nobleſſe; and of four rich and ſubſtantial tradeſmen, nominated by the cities aforeſaid; as alſo by two burgho-maſters of Liege, and two other deputies, who are to act only in caſe of the abſence of either of thoſe burgho-maſters.

This

This form of government, which may be termed, with ſome degree of propriety, a republican form, bears a very near affinity to that obſerved in England; and the ſoil of the country of Liege bears a near reſemblance to that of Great-Britain.

The country abounds with mountains, and with mines of iron, ſulphur and alom; as alſo, with lead, copper, and other foſſils: there are ſeveral quarries likewiſe to be met with there of marble; but more particularly coal-mines, which were firſt diſcovered there in the twelfth century, and conſtitute the principal fewel of the country, inſomuch that Liege, in the winter-time, is, in a manner, almoſt as full of ſmoke as London.

The country, however, notwithſtanding its numerous mountains, has very fertile plains and meadows to boaſt of: it abounds with fine cattle; and there is great plenty of vegetables, ſuch as beans, peas, and the like. It produces, moreover, large ſtocks of grain of all ſorts, though not ſufficient, indeed, to anſwer the call of the whole country; becauſe in ſome cantons, or provinces, 'tis true, thoſe commodities are very ſcarce. However, the profits ariſing from the other commodities peculiar to the country, which are exported into foreign countries, added to the induſtry of the inhabitants, make ample compenſation for thoſe caſual defects.

For beſides the large dealings which the natives have in foreign merchandizes, both within and without the country; ſuch, for inſtance, as wines, of which they export large quantities into the

northern countries, hides, and other articles, in which the inhabitants of Liege traffic with other nations; the advantages which they make of their own produce, or of what they work up at home, are very conſiderable. The produce of their iron-mines is an article of great importance, for it amounts to about two millions *per annum*; and their large dealings in foreign iron may be computed, without any exaggeration, at near fifteen, or twenty millions more. They work their bars of iron chiefly into nails of various kinds, guns, and pieces of ordnance. Their dealings in the woollen manufacture, every one knows, are prodigiouſly extenſive; and their exportation of cloths of all prices into foreign countries amounts to an immenſe ſum. The exportation likewiſe of glaſs bottles, and other glaſs works, as alſo of their mineral waters, are additional articles of no ſmall advantage. Their hops, marble, ſulphur, alom, and lime, &c. all the products of their own country, and which they diſpoſe of in Holland, and the parts adjacent, muſt, moreover, contribute towards a very conſiderable augmentation of the account. Nay, the vaſt variety of herbs and roots, which their gardeners, whom they call, in their country dialect, *Bottreſſes*, or *Green-grocers*, carry into the Low-countries, to Aix-la-chapelle, and the parts adjacent, afford them a very comfortable ſubſiſtence; and the profits ariſing therefrom ought not to be looked upon with an eye of contempt.

Their

Their game, their veniſon, and their wild-fowl, are all excellent, though theſe articles, indeed, are in a great meaſure reſerved for the entertainment of the prince and his adherents, the diverſion of hunting being ſtrictly prohibited throughout all their provinces. There is plenty, however, of all ſorts of wild-fowl brought to market from the Ardennes, and other places; inſomuch that there is nothing wanting in the country for the ſupply, not only of the neceſſities, but the conveniencies, and even the ſuperfluities of life.

The air, moreover, which every one enjoys in this country, being ſo good and temperate, is another eſſential article, that concurs in rendering the reſidence there, not only wholeſome, but extremely delightful.

The character of the natives, indeed, is not very eaſy to be deſcribed; for it ſeems to partake of the temper or diſpoſition of the different people, of other nations, amongſt whom they are ſurrounded. The uncommon, or extraordinary vivacity of ſome, and the phlegmatic temper of others, ſeem to denote perſons of diſtant climates. But, be that as it may, the natives, in regard to the much greater number of them, may, with juſtice, be termed lively, ſharp, and induſtrious; and many of them men of courage. 'Tis not for want, either of example, or encouragement, that too many of them may be reproached with being ſhamefully indolent and inactive. Notwithſtanding that too common foible, there have been men amongſt them, who, from

from time to time, have teſtified a genius ſuperior to their neighbours, and diſtinguiſhed themſelves by their profound wiſdom and penetration in various articles of the laſt importance; ſome of whom, by their peculiar ſagacity, have advanced themſelves to poſts of honour and advantage; others, again, have ſhone by their profound reſearches into the liberal arts and ſciences; and numbers, by their unwearied induſtry and application to buſineſs, have met with ſucceſs in their moſt important undertakings.

The ſcandal, and too juſt imputation which the inhabitants of Liege lie under, is, of drinking to exceſs; of being too much addicted to ſhew their anger and reſentment without cauſe; and of being, in ſhort, very quarrelſome and litigious: but then, as thoſe foibles are not general, and, with juſtice, are only to be aſcribed to ſome few worthleſs perſons, they cannot fairly be charged on the natives, or inhabitants in general. And the imputation of being litigious is purely accidental: and the main reaſon, in all probability, why ſome are inclined to involve themſelves in law-ſuits, is occaſioned (though it may ſeem a paradox and prepoſterous) through the multiplicity of ways and means which there are to prevent it. The vaſt number of courts, through which their law-ſuits are ſucceſſively obliged to paſs, naturally retarding their final deciſion, proves too great an encouragement to men of bad principles, and ſuch as have unjuſt cauſes

to

to ſupport; and makes the extending of them as far as poſſible, their principal aim and delight.

This multiplicity of courts has tempted great numbers to ſtudy the law, rather than any other art or ſcience whatſoever. The names of Meau and Louvrax have ſo far immortaliſed their works, that they are purchaſed with as much eagerneſs, and are in as high repute in foreign nations, as in their own native country, where they have fully explained all the rights and privileges thereto belonging. And in all the ſeveral courts of judicature, there are very profound lawyers to be met with, who tread in their ſteps, and are accurate judges.

A detail of the different courts erected in the city of Liege, we are ſenſible, can afford but little amuſement to moſt of our readers; and, for that reaſon, we will only give a tranſient view of them. However, there are ſome, we imagine, whoſe taſte may be that way, and who may think a leiſure hour very profitably beſtowed in the peruſal.

But before we enter upon the ſubject propoſed, it will be proper to take notice, that the inhabitants of Liege have one important privilege, or prerogative, peculiar to themſelves; and that is, that no coſts of ſuit, upon the determination of any cauſe, are ever granted, either to plaintiff or defendant, unleſs to ſuch as are not only natives, but lawfully begot there; the father, moreover, muſt be a native. As to the mother, whether ſhe be a native, or not, is a matter of no moment, or enquiry.

The ſheriffs-court is more antient than any of the reſt; for it was firſt erected by St. Hubert, in the eighth century. Theſe ſheriffs, or this court, conſiſt of fourteen members, and a preſident, or grand mayor. From their very firſt inſtitution, they had not only the adminiſtration of juſtice, but the cognizance likewiſe of civil affairs, till the thirteenth century, when the populace roſe up in arms, and inſiſted on having particular burgho-maſters; and, at this day, as formerly, they are not only judges in civil cauſes, but are abſolute and ſupreme in regard to criminals, that is to ſay, in cauſes of life and death.

The feodal, or feudal court, which conſiſts of a preſident, who is diſtinguiſhed by the name or title of lieutenant of the fief, that is, the fee, or manor, who is the head of the nobleſſe, or ſecond ſtate; and of twelve counſellors, who take cognizance of, and ſit as judges in, all feudal caſes.

The allodial court, which conſiſts of a mayor and twelve counſellors, who take cognizance of, and ſit as judges in, all allodial caſes.

The common-council, conſiſting of a preſident and eight counſellors, one part of them nominated by the prince, and the other by the ſtates, was firſt erected in the year 1521; and this court are judges in appeal of ſuch ſentences as relate to civil matters, and are paſſed by the ſheriffs of Liege; and of ſuch others as are paſſed in the feudal and allodial courts.

The

The ſentences, or judgments, paſſed in the common-council court itſelf, are appealable, either in reſtitution before the council itſelf, and from thence, in reviſion, by ſeven barriſters, againſt whom none of the parties have any objection; or even at once in reviſion, without reſtitution: and in ſuch cauſes, where the matter in debate is of a certain and known value, an appeal may be lodged to the empire, either directly, or after reſtitution; but after reviſion no appeal can be granted.

The privy-council, conſiſting of a chancellor, and, for the time being, of eighteen counſellors, ſeven whereof are canons of the cathedral, or trefonciers, and eleven ſeculars, or laymen, nominated according to the will or direction of the prince, if not in his name, take cognizance of all civil matters, and ſuch, in particular, as relate either to the cities, or other bodies corporate, belonging to the country, without any appeal, except to the prince himſelf.

The chamber of accounts, which conſiſts of a preſident and four and twenty barriſters, ſuch, or in ſuch number, as the prince thinks convenient, though ſometimes in the name of his moſt ſerene highneſs, paſs ſentence, or judgment, without appeal, except in reviſion, before the court itſelf, with reſpect to the finances, and the revenues of the epiſcopal table.

The archdeacons hold their juriſdictions over the rectors, or vicars, and other eccleſiaſtics, ſubject, nevertheleſs, to the ordinary; as alſo over

the adminiſtrators of ſuch religious houſes as are eſtabliſhed by eccleſiaſtical authority.

They have likewiſe an official, who is nominated by the prince out of the cathedral canons, or trefonciers, who, for the generality, has two fiſcal barriſters as aſſiſtants: he judges in appeal of ſuch decrees as are made by the archdeacons; but, more particularly, in ſuch eccleſiaſtical cauſes, in which appeal may be made to the nuncio, or to Rome itſelf; as alſo in perſonal civil cauſes, where there is no other remedy than the privilege of reſtitution before the official himſelf, or even without reſtitution, that of reviſion, by three barriſters, or by appeal to the empire.

The ſynod, or the eccleſiaſtical council of his moſt ſerene highneſs, conſiſting of a grand vicar, who is the head, and of eleven ſynodical examiners, admits ſuch as ſtand candidates for the prieſthood into orders, and takes cognizance of ſuch matters wherein the eccleſiaſtics act unjuſtly, and inconſiſtent with their character; from whoſe ſentence there is ſometimes an appeal procured to the nuncio, or to Rome itſelf.

The court, conſiſting of twenty-ſix members, firſt erected in the year 1573, with the peculiar view of reforming the abuſes of public officers, conſiſts of four canons of the cathedral, or trefonciers, four of the nobleſſe, or members of the ſecond ſtate, and of fourteen deputies, or repreſentatives of the cities; one part of whom muſt be men of learning, and the other part, ſubſtantial tradeſmen. The principal buſineſs of this court is, to inſpect into the abuſes and clandeſtine practices,

practices, not only of particular, or private perſons, but of all public officers in general; and no body is exempt from their enquiries, and judicial ſentences, but the prince himſelf, and the two burgho-maſters of Liege for the time being. From this court of twenty-two, an appeal may be made to the ſtate-reviewers, who are eſtabliſhed for the examination of ſuch decrees as are paſſed by the above-mentioned court of twenty-two, and for their determination, whether they be juſt or unjuſt, upon their mature and impartial reviſion. Theſe reviewers are nominated by the three ſtates, as well as by the court of twenty-two. Their offices or employments, however, are places for life; whereas the members of the court of twenty-two are annually elected.

There are divers ſubaltern, or inferior courts all over the country, and its various dependences, moſt of which are ſubject to the ſheriffs court in Liege. They are to take cognizance of ſuch perſonal and real cauſes, as occur within their reſpective juriſdictions. From the ſentences, or judgments paſſed in theſe petty courts, appeals may be procured to the ſheriffs court of Liege aforeſaid: and even upon their deciſion, which is there termed a recharge; they paſs ſentence likewiſe in criminal caſes, without appeal, except to themſelves, or their own court.

The inferior, or ſubaltern feudal courts, which act under the feudal court of Liege, have likewiſe their juriſdiction; but an appeal may be procured to that at Liege.

The police, or civil government of Liege, is regulated by a magiſtracy, conſiſting of two burgho-maſters and twenty counſellors, who are choſen by lot; one half of them out of ſuch as are nominated by his moſt ſerene highneſs, and the other half by the freemen of Liege. Theſe officers are choſe annually.

The police, or civil government of the ſeveral cities, and other communities belonging to the country, is regulated by magiſtrates likewiſe, compoſed of burgho-maſters and counſellors, or commiſſaries; but the number of them is ſettled by the mandamus's, or writs, granted by divers princes for that particular purpoſe.

After this ſhort detail of the ſoil, genius, and government of the inhabitants of Liege, the company had no more time left than juſt to take a walk, before they went to their reſpective bagnio's; and when they were once withdrawn from thence, they ſoon rejoined. No ſooner were they got together again, but one of the canons, or trefonciers, gave them to underſtand, that ſupper would not be upon table till nine o'clock, and made a kind of an apology from the landlord for treſpaſſing on their patience. The company very readily acquieſced in his information, taking it for granted, that the trefoncier, for ſome reaſon or other, had poſtponed their evening repaſt, by his own private orders. However, though the walk which they had taken, with the pleaſure of the bagnio afterwards,

wards, had given an edge to their appetites, which were rendered ſtill keener by the freſh country air, and their perpetual motion in it; but, above all, by the charms of ſo much good company, and ſuch a variety of pleaſing converſation; yet they agreed, with one accord, to reviſit the little pretty wood, and take a view, once more, of the little verdant hills, and flowery meadows, that lay on the other ſide of the river. Such a delightful review naturally turned the converſation on the beauties and fine proſpects which that little hamlet had to boaſt of; as alſo on that peculiar regard which the regency of Liege, as well as the ſtates, had ſhewn for it, by ſuch a number of decorations. After that, they amuſed themſelves with a variety of little pleaſing ſtories till the hour appointed. One of the waiters, in the name of the landlord, informing them, that their ſupper was juſt ready, they made all the haſte they could to their inn. And as, on one ſide of the buildings, there ſtood a grand column, or pillar, in the form of a pyramid, the Count ſeemed very ſolicitous of having the meaning of it explained; the Counſellor having forgot to inſert in his journal any thing relating thereto, notwithſtanding there are ſuch numbers of them erected in almoſt every place of any conſiderable note throughout the country of Liege.

I preſume, gentlemen, ſaid the Canon, that you all know, the city-arms are a golden column, or pillar, mounted on three ſteps, and ſup-

ported by as many lions. Notwithſtanding the city of Liege bore another coat formerly, it has had this ever ſince the year 1300; when the company of tradeſmen ordered it to be painted on their colours, after a riot, or inſurrection, of the populace, as an emblem, or type, of union, valour, and liberty. This, Sir, I take to be the genuine meaning or interpretation of the column, ſupported by three lions, all acting in concert. The pine-apple, 'tis probable, by its alluſion to the height of the tree, may be intended to denote the elevation, or ſuperiority, of a juſt and equitable cauſe, to a weak, groundleſs, and unjuſtifiable popular tumult: then, as to the croſs, it ſeems to be placed there as a mark, or teſtimony, of that awful veneration and eſteem, which the antient natives, ſoon after the time of the apoſtles, paid to the Chriſtian religion. When the tumult, or inſurrection, was happily ſuppreſſed, a very pompous and grand column, or pillar, was erected in the heart of the city, with all its attributes, and was looked upon as conſecrated to juſtice and equity, and a mark or emblem of public authority. There they publiſh their ſtatutes, or laws; as alſo their judgments, or decrees, in criminal cauſes; and theſe public proclamations are termed the cry at the Perron; and this cuſtom is ſtrictly obſerved, not only at Liege, but in almoſt every conſiderable place, that is in the leaſt dependent thereupon. As, by this formal ceremony, the country of Liege give a ſanction to their laws, the natives are accuſ-

tomed

tomed to pay these public pillars, wherever erected, a peculiar mark of reverence and respect, and to look upon them as the fountain or source of their happiness, and the peculiar privileges they enjoy. Thus, added the Canon, when Charles the Bold, duke of Bourgogne, made himself master of the city of Liege by dint of arms, and after he had plundered the whole country, he imagined, that he could not mortify its natives more severely than by pulling down their superb and magnificent perron, or pillar: he ordered it to be directly transported from Liege to Bruges, where it remained for ten years successively, till the decease of the duke, when Mary of Bourgogne, his daughter, in order to oblige them, sent it back again.

This relation, gentlemen, excuse my freedom, said the Counsellor to the Canon his brother-in-law, is somewhat too rigid and severe; for you have omitted the main article, the principal plea which the natives of Liege had to urge in vindication of their nation's conduct; as, upon due recollection, you yourself must acknowledge. The unhappy natives and inhabitants of Liege were totally subdued, and treated with the utmost severity by their merciless victor: they were mortified, 'tis true, to the last degree; but I am fully persuaded, gentlemen, you will all readily acknowledge, that it was no just scandal, or disgrace, for them to be overcome by an enemy infinitely superior in power to them; and that too by their own allies, who were turned against them. See

here, gentlemen, adds he, the impartial ſtate of the caſe is this, which, as I have extracted it from what Philip de Comines, and ſome of our own hiſtorians, have offered on this important article, and even what Monſieur de Louvrax has advanced upon that topic, are extracts from them. I preſume, I am able to ſet that momentous revolution in a fairer and more advantageous light than my brother Canon has done, whoſe memory, in ſome meaſure, failed him. The real and undiſguiſed fact is this: — Lewis of Bourbon, biſhop of Liege, having had ſome conteſt, or quarrel, with the ſtates, had called in to his aid and aſſiſtance Philip duke de Bourgogne, who, moreover, pretended to have juſt grounds for his diſguſt and reſentment towards the natives of Liege, on account of the mal-treatment of the inhabitants of Dinant, a city in the country of Liege, and the implacable enmity which they bore to ſome of his ſubjects, reſiding in the county of Namur. On the other hand, the Liegeſe were united or joined to Lewis the XIth, then king of France, by a treaty ſigned at Paris in the year 1465. In about three months afterwards the war was concluded between thoſe two princes. The natives of Liege, thus unfortunately abandoned, were under an indiſpenſible obligation to patch up a peace the year following, but upon very diſadvantageous terms; by virtue whereof the duke of Bourgogne aſſumed to himſelf the title of governor, not only of the city, but the whole country of Liege; and conſtituted

ſtituted one Guy de Bremen, lord of Imbercourt, to act therein as his vicegerent. The Liegeſe plainly perceiving themſelves treated with too great rigour and ſeverity; or, at leaſt, too ſenſible of the loſs of their liberty; and imagining, that they had a juſt right and title to recover it, if any favourable opportunity offered; and, moreover, being prompted thereto by Lewis the XIth, who promiſed them a powerful ſuccour and ſupport, for that purpoſe, rebelled, and openly took up arms againſt Imbercourt, and their biſhop.

The king, however, being cloſely confined in the caſtle of Peronne, was determined to make peace with duke Charles the Bold, ſon and ſucceſſor of Philip the Third; and, conſequently, inſtead of proving true to his promiſe, in aiding and aſſiſting the Liegeſe, joined the duke, and perſonally accompanied him, whilſt he laid ſiege to their city, which was taken, ſword in hand, in the year 1468. His highneſs the duke, being greatly incenſed at the conduct of ſome of the heads, or ringleaders, in that rebellion; and, more particularly, becauſe a party of them, who were about ſix hundred in number, had, in a ſally, or excurſion, forced their way into his very camp, and narrowly miſſed of making himſelf, as well as the king, their priſoners; ſet fire to the city, and delivered up the inhabitants a prey to his ſoldiers, who committed there ſuch outrages, and acts of barbarity, as were never heard of in a Chriſtian country. The biſhop enjoyed only the

the mere ſhadow of ſovereignty; and the people, in a word, loſt all their liberty; till, about ten years afterwards, the duke having been killed at the battle of Nancy, the biſhop procured, from Mary of Bourgogne, an act of renunciation of all thoſe rights and privileges, which her father had made himſelf maſter of, in his high reſentments againſt the natives of Liege. This ſuccinct hiſtory, in the detail of which I have omitted every incident that might ſavour of partiality, or prejudice, on one ſide or the other, is, doubtleſs, much more unfortunate than diſhonourable to the nation.

The ladies, being tired with liſtening to ſuch diſcuſſions and anecdotes of times ſo long ſince paſt, began to think of the time preſent, and longed for their ſupper: after a few amuſing ſtories of another nature, the landlord ſent them word, by one of his waiters, that ſupper was ready, and upon the table; all chearfully obeyed the ſummons, and were agreeably ſurpriſed to find the table ſo magnificently ſpread: then 'twas plainly diſcovered, by the ſmiles of the two canons, who were in the ſecret, that the poſtponing the entertainment to ſo late an hour was purely to give the landlord an opportunity to get it ready. 'Twas their parting-banquet, as one part of the company had concluded to return the next morning to Liege, and the other to purſue their intended journey to the Spa. A hamper of wild fowl, it ſeems, was ſent from Liege to the treſoncier, with which he propoſed

to

to regale the company, and every thing was dreſſed to the utmoſt perfection.

There was no one article wanting; the very deſſert was in the higheſt taſte, and extremely polite. They drank, they ſung, and were innocently gay and chearful. Every thing, in ſhort, contributed towards the promotion of their mirth; for no ſooner was their entertainment over, and the table cleared, but a ſmall concert, conſiſting only of a few violins, was introduced. This ſerved, however, as an additional compliment; and the whole party joined in country-dances till it was midnight, or rather early in the morning.

The next day the company paid their compliments to the trefoncier, and returned him many thanks for his polite and elegant entertainment. They took their leave of each other, with all the courteſy and complaiſance imaginable; though not without reluctance, and with repeated promiſes to meet again, either at the Spa, or, at their return at leaſt, by a viſit to Liege, in their paſſage home.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

On the Beau Monde, which the fine Weather in Autumn attracts to the Spa. *On the particular Times moſt proper for drinking the Waters. On the public Walks reſorted to at Four and Seven in the Evening. On the Environs of* Sauveniere. *On the peculiar Virtues, and the different Qualities of the various Springs belonging to the* Spa.

THE Count and his party arrived ſafe at Spa: the company then there were gay and ſprightly; the pleaſures of the place began to be very engaging (as they riſe and ſink in proportion to the concourſe of ſtrangers upon the ſpot); and the town filled apace.

About the month of May, and ſometimes ſooner, the Spa abounds with viſiters. No ſooner are the froſt and ſnow, and the other inclemencies of the winter-ſeaſon over, and their place ſupplied by the charms of the ſpring, than ſome of the moſt ſickly, who wait with impatience for its return, embrace the firſt favourable minutes that offer, for entering on the journey, and partaking in the benefit of the waters. The Engliſh, however, are the perſons, for the generality, whether real invalids or not, who open the ſeaſon. There are great numbers of that nation, who, like true Coſmopolites, imagining any place

place, where they live and can enjoy themſelves, to be their country, voluntarily baniſh themſelves, as it were, from their native home; nay, ſometimes take their families along with them, abſent themſelves for years together, and annually make their appearance at the Spa, without paying a ſingle viſit to Old England.

The ſeaſon for reſorting to the Spa, however, does not properly commence till the latter end of June, but appears in its utmoſt beauty and perfection about the latter end of July, and the whole month of Auguſt, notwithſtanding few drink the waters in the dog-days, the weather being then often too ſultry, and ſometimes ſubject to ſudden variations, even to ſtorms and tempeſts. As to ſuch perſons, however, who are but ſlightly indiſpoſed, and whoſe conſtitutions are not much influenced, or affected, by a few caſual raw or cold days, and do not require a more than common degree of heat, they may uſe the waters from the firſt day of May till the beginning of July; and then again, from the latter end of that month till the end of September, and part of October, if they think proper, with both ſafety and ſucceſs.

As the Counſellor was no ſtranger to the Spa, and as there were apartments enough in the town empty, he was not at a loſs to find commodious lodgings for himſelf and his friends.

After they had paid their proper viſits, and ſettled and adjuſted the neceſſary preliminaries, they thought of entering on the proper meaſures for relief under their reſpective maladies. The cuſtoms obſerved in order to accompliſh a cure, are,

are, in a manner, regular and uniform. Some patients will take a preparatory doſe of phyſic: others will content themſelves with a ſmall quantity of ſalts in a glaſs of the Pouhon water: after that, all in general reſort to the Sauveniere ſpring; with this difference only, that ſome will drink three or four glaſſes of the Pouhon well before they ſet out, and others will move off from thence after the firſt glaſs. However, as theſe waters were brought to them by ſmart young laſſes, dreſſed very neat and decent, and in a much more agreeable manner than any of the old prieſteſſes of the Nymph, who were uſually employed in times paſt to diſcharge that office; and as the Counſellor muſt, doubtleſs, have long before been informed of that alteration; the Count, who never ſuffered the moſt minute circumſtance to eſcape his notice, upbraided, but in a very genteel manner, his fellow-traveller the Counſellor with a material omiſſion, in not having rectified that article in his journal; for, to deal ingenuouſly, ſaid he, the method now practiſed in ſerving us with our water, gives me a more favourable opinion of it than I ſhould have, was it adminiſtered, as formerly, by thoſe old draggle-tailed attendants.

Sir, ſaid the Counſellor, I muſt as ingenuouſly acknowledge my error, that your reprehenſion is very juſt, and my omiſſion was owing to inadvertency. The Count, (as I obſerved before) being curious in every little point, took it in his head to aſk one of the young female waiters what

wages

wages the town paid her for her conſtant attendance, at the well, on the numerous ſtrangers who came there to drink the waters. To which the laſs, with a ſmile, though with ſome ſurpriſe to the company, very readily replied, that, inſtead of her receiving any wages, the proprietor of the well paid the town, or community, a ſtated ſum out of his profits. Though that account appeared ſomewhat odd at firſt, yet the voluntary preſents, or free gifts, which thoſe women generally received from the gentry of both ſexes, were ſo ſuperior to any ſettled ſalary, or wages, for ſuch ſervice, that it was deemed an act of injuſtice to gratify one, excluſive of the reſt; and therefore it was determined, as the faireſt and moſt impartial method, to ſet up ſuch caſual perquiſites to public auction; with a right and title to each of them to purchaſe, if he, or ſhe, thought proper. That part of it, therefore, which becomes due from thence to the magiſtrate, is thus divided, *viz.* three-fourths to the community, and the remaining fourth to the poor and the church.

Notwithſtanding the great advantages that muſt apparently reſult from this method of adjuſtment, it was with no ſmall difficulty that the magiſtrate could prevail on his brethren, the inhabitants of the town, to agree to ſuch arrangement. This created a ſtrong diviſion between the parties concerned; and ſuch as were in the oppoſition raiſed ill-natured and diſadvantageous reports, in regard to the conduct of the magiſtrate, who, in order

order to vindicate his character and reputation, publiſhed an advertiſement, whereby ſtrangers might be fully appriſed of the obligations or contracts thoſe were under, whoſe office or duty it was to ſerve them with their waters, and to take due care to light and keep up, at proper times, a good fire in the Pouhon hall; as alſo, at other ſprings belonging to the Spa, which are upon the ſame footing, and under the ſame covenant and conditions.

For the amuſement and ſatisfaction of my readers, I have hereunder inſerted an exact and faithful copy of the ſaid advertiſement.

"ADVERTISEMENT.

"Whereas divers evil-minded and cenſorious "perſons have induſtriouſly ſpread very malici- "ous reports againſt the conduct of the magiſtrate "of the Spa, and more particularly againſt the "leaſe which he had granted of the emoluments "and perquiſites ariſing from the attendance on "the ſeveral wells to the ſaid Spa belonging, or "appertaining; he, the ſaid magiſtrate, being "very deſirous of vindicating his conduct, and "clearing himſelf from all falſe and groundleſs "aſperſions, and of demonſtrating, as openly as "poſſible, not only to all ſuch perſons of di- "ſtinction of both ſexes as viſit the place, in or- "der to drink the mineral waters, but to the in- "habitants themſelves, that his intention, and "the good effects naturally to be expected to ariſe "from ſuch leaſe, can redound only to the advan- "tage and utility of the public; and, more parti-

cularly

"cularly in this reſpect, that gentlemen and "ladies will be waited on with more readineſs, "decency, and aſſiduity, than in times paſt; "for that purpoſe, and the better to anſwer ſo "deſireable an end, has ordered and directed "the under-written extract from the above-"mentioned articles of agreement to be forthwith "printed, and ſtuck up in the moſt conſpicuous "and proper places in the town; as alſo to be "otherwiſe diſtributed, that all perſons, without "any farther enquiry, may be fully acquainted "with the ſum and ſubſtance of all the cove-"nants and conditions contained in the leaſe "above mentioned.

"ARTICLE I.

"That the leſſee is thereby bound to attend "at the Pouhon well, on the firſt day of May, by "four o'clock in the morning, in order to open "the hall, make a proper fire in it, and to ſweep "it clean; and on every Saturday in the after-"noon, to ſweep down the walls, and free the ciel-"ing from duſt; as alſo, to waſh the floor; and, "moreover, to take care that the windows be well "cleaned, at leaſt once every three months, or "oftener, if neceſſity ſhould require it.

"ARTICLE II.

"That the leſſee ſhall be obliged to ſweep "clean, and waſh likewiſe every day, all the con-"venient places.

"ARTICLE III.

"That the leſſee ſhall every day ſweep clean "all the places round about the niche, from "whence the waters are drawn. "AR-

"ARTICLE IV.

"That the leſſee ſhall entirely empty the well, "in order to its being filled with freſh water, "twice a week, during the ſpring ſeaſon, to com- "mence on May-day; that is to ſay, every "Tueſday and Saturday; three times a week in "the ſummer; in autumn twice a week, as in "the ſpring; and on every Saturday in the "winter.

"ARTICLE V.

"That the leſſee ſhall, during the months of "May and June, attend at the fountain with one "aſſiſtant; and, during the months of July and "Auguſt, with two aſſiſtants, or more, if occa- "ſion be, to accommodate, with greater expe- "dition and diſpatch, the numbers of people in "expectation of being ſerved; in the month of "September, and at all other times, when there are "ſtrangers ready to drink the waters, to attend "with one aſſiſtant; all which ſaid aſſiſtants are "to be neatly and decently dreſſed, and to wait "on all perſons with equal aſſiduity and reſpect.

"ARTICLE VI.

"That the leſſee, during the whole time that "the waters are drank, ſhall attend from five o' "clock in the morning till ten: he is obliged to "be provided with a proper pitcher, or jug, with "which he is to draw up the water from the "well, and pour ſuch mineral waters into the "pitchers of all who requeſt the favour; with- "out permitting any one whomſoever to draw "water with any other pitcher, thoſe who make

"it

" it their daily practice to fill them only except-
" ed, who ſhall be allowed to fill their pitchers
" according to cuſtom, at all times, but at ſuch
" hours, in particular, as are peremptorily prohi-
" bited, or forbidden.

" N. B. The times thus prohibited are all
" mornings in which the gentlemen and ladies
" drink their waters; that is to ſay, from four
" to nine.

"ARTICLE VII.

" That the leſſee ſhall appoint ſome proper
" waiter to attend the ſpring every afternoon till
" ſeven in the evening, in order to accommodate
" all ſuch ſtrangers as ſhall be inclined to drink
" the waters between thoſe hours.

"ARTICLE VIII.

" That no waiter or aſſiſtant ſhall preſume to
" aſk any gratuity or conſideration, on any ac-
" count or pretence whatſoever; but ſhall ſeem
" at leaſt perfectly content with what is given
" him, (be it more or leſs) without making the
" leaſt complaint, or ſhew of diſſatisfaction, ei-
" ther directly or indirectly.

"ARTICLE IX.

" That the leſſee ſhall take care, that the
" glaſſes, which are delivered to all drinkers, be
" firſt well rinſed, and perfectly whole and
" clear.

"ARTICLE X.

" That whilſt there are any gentlemen or la-
" dies in the hall of Pouhon, no waiter or aſ-
" ſiſtant ſhall preſume to go in, unleſs it be either

" to

"to make or amend the fire, or unleſs it be upon "ſome expreſs errand. 'Tis his buſineſs likewiſe to take care, that no perſon whomſoever, "under pretence of ſelling any kind of toys, "or any other commodities, of what nature or "kind ſoever, be permitted entrance when company is there.

"The articles above mentioned contain an "abſtract, or the ſum and ſubſtance of the original grant, which was ſigned, and duly executed, on the thirtieth of April, 1759.

"Printed by order of the magiſtracy, at a "court held on the twenty-ſixth of May then "next enſuing."

And the whole is under the very ſame regulation at this day; and all parties concerned ſeem perfectly therewith content.

There are a hundred different topics, that offer themſelves every morning to be canvaſſed, and ſerve for converſation during the time of drinking the waters. If they have no ſubject matter particularly to talk on, they will chat about mere trifles, rather than be dull, or ſpeechleſs; the waters themſelves furniſhing them, ſeemingly, with good humour ſufficient for drinking the ſame with ſome degree of pleaſure. Thus the morning flies away upon wings at the Spa: the time for drinking the waters devours the greater part of it, eſpecially when the company reſort to any diſtant ſpring; and chocolate, or breakfaſt, and the toilette, run away with the remainder.

On

On ſuch days as prove any thing hotter than uſual, the company, for the generality, often take a nap after dinner, ſit down to cards, or ſome other amuſement of the like kind, that requires little or no exerciſe: about five they repair to the aſſembly-room, or ſome other private rendezvous; where ſome ſit down to play, others dance; and afterwards the greateſt part of the company make up ſeparate parties of pleaſure, and amuſe themſelves with walking.

The walk moſt frequented is that particularly diſtinguiſhed by the name of the Seven o'clock walk, which is ſo called becauſe the ſun lies upon it, in very hot days, till then, and renders the walking there, in ſome meaſure, diſagreeable any time before.

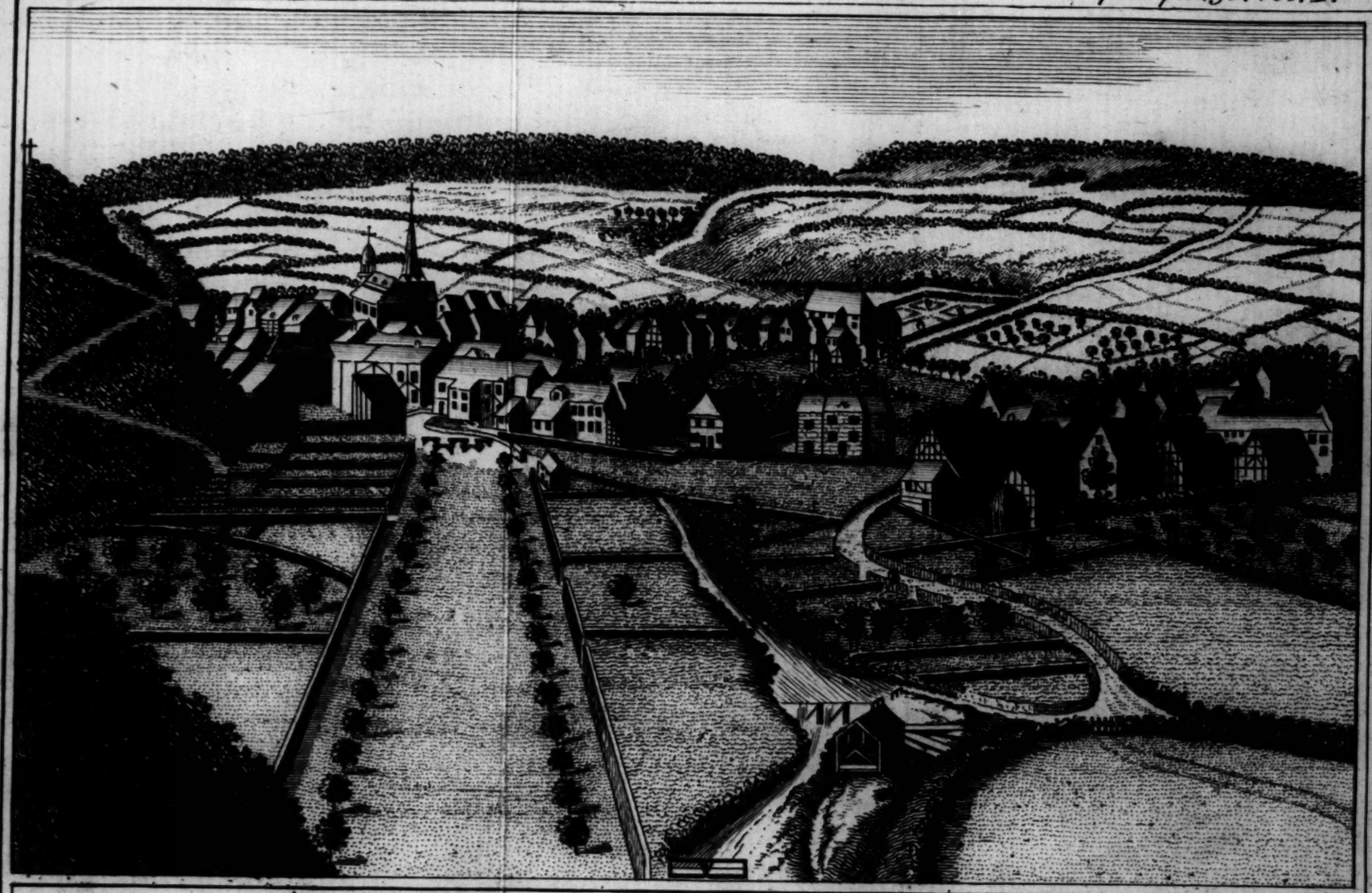
In former times this ſpot was nothing more than a common meadow, which was converted into a public walk in the year 1758. It now conſiſts of two regular rows of elms and linden trees, the alley, or paſſage, between which, is ſix and thirty feet broad, each ſide about ſeventeen, and in length a thouſand feet at leaſt. This walk is a very beautiful, or fine ſpot of ground, conſidered in itſelf; but the various objects that ſurround it are no ſmall additional beauties. There are divers little flowery meadows on each ſide, which, with their verdure, ſtrike the eye in the moſt agreeable manner: the paſture-grounds on the one ſide lie all along the courſe of the river; and thoſe on the other are lined with ſteep ditches, which may be termed the pedeſtal, or

or ground-work, as it were, of a foreſt, on the ſummit of a hill, in which there are divers little alleys, or walks, cut in zig-zags, which make it ſomewhat troubleſome, it is true, to aſcend them; but they are extremely agreeable, on account of the fine proſpects which you have all round whilſt in the parterre, or upon level ground.

This walk is perfectly amuſing and delightful, and there is a fine freſh air, as ſoon as the ſun is withdrawn from it, which proceeds from the river, and from the dews which fall from the trees, and other plants, which are growing in abundance on both ſides.

Our party did not think fit to go to the aſſembly on the firſt day of their taking the waters, but employed their leiſure-time in ſettling and adjuſting matters in their reſpective apartments: in the evening, however, as the weather was perfectly calm and ſerene, they diverted themſelves at the Seven o'clock walk. As the day had proved exceſſively hot, and as the rays of the ſun, which were reflected ſo ſtrongly from the mountains that lie on the backs of the houſes all along the Spa, had made them perfectly ſultry, almoſt every body was glad of a little freſh air, and flew from their lodging to the walk above mentioned. Almoſt all the beau-monde, then reſident at the Spa, were met together, and made a very ſplendid appearance: the major part of the company were natives of France and England, and thoſe who opened

to face pa. 136. Vol. 1.



The Seven'o Clock Walk

the ſeaſon; the French, moreover, were more numerous than the Engliſh, which is not a very common occurrence. However, that which is the moſt agreeable circumſtance is, that there appeared ſuch a perfect freedom and harmony between all parties, that they ſeemed abſolute ſtrangers to the unhappy broils and diſſentions with which Europe were harraſſed and perplexed, or, at leaſt, ſeemed altogether eaſy and unconcerned about them.

As this Seven o' clock walk at once attracts a vaſt number of viſiters, 'tis there that, in fine weather, you ſee, with one glance of the eye, almoſt all the ſtrangers then reſident at the Spa. As the company is diverſified, however, not only every ſeaſon, but almoſt every day, by a perpetual rotation of comers and goers, it is the faireſt and moſt impartial way, to conſider the Spa in its cuſtomary point of light, rather than in that accidental ſplendor; ſince 'tis ſeldom in its acme, or perfect beauty, till the month of July.

To ſee the company at the Spa in their utmoſt luſtre, and the number of perſons of all ranks and degrees, and from almoſt all parts of the known world, who are viſiters there every ſeaſon, through ſome motive or other, one would be apt to ſay, that the whole world was there aſſembled. All nations in epitome meet there; you ſee the manners, faſhions, and cuſtoms, of all people under the ſun: there all manner of languages are talked with the utmoſt fluency and eaſe; Engliſh, French, High-Dutch,

Low-Dutch, Italian, and other languages leſs known.

All Europe ſeems to be met there by its reſpective deputies, in order to expoſe to public view the original characters of all nations, which would prove a morally impoſſible thing to find out any where elſe. Strangers here look upon themſelves as members of a ſingle republic, who are linked, as it were, and live together without conſtraint, and with ſuch a kind of cordial friendſhip and affection, as is almoſt without the leaſt reſerve. Politeneſs is carried here to ſo high a pitch, that 'tis very common for ſuch as are ſprightly, and in high ſpirits, to treat with affability, not only thoſe who are dejected, and caſt down, but ſuch likewiſe as have not ſufficient aſſurance to diſplay their merit. This kind of generous indulgence is ſo much the more natural, as almoſt all the viſiters of the Spa ſeem to make a point of being ſick, and even boaſt of ſome indiſpoſition or other, that they reſpectively labour under; and this ſentiment, or ſympathy, eſtabliſhes between all the water-drinkers ſuch an amicable ſociety, as renders each member a compaſſionate partaker, as it were, of the infirmities of his neighbour.

How delightful, and how inexpreſſibly pleaſing muſt it be, to ſee a multitude, a diverſity of perſons, of both ſexes, ſtriking the eye at once in ſuch an agreeable manner as is not in the power of words to expreſs; to ſee a company, brilliant as the ſun, amongſt

mongſt whom all the graces and beauties of the moſt illuſtrious perſonages in Europe are ſet in the faireſt and moſt advantageous point of light, and ſhine forth in all their ſplendor! What a tranſporting proſpect muſt it be to find, not only ſuch a vaſt number of lords and ladies, of high rank and diſtinction, aſſembled together in ſo ſmall a ſpot of ground, and all perſons of different climates; but even kings and princes mingled amongſt them! and what is ſtill more engaging than all the reſt, to find theſe laſt ſo condeſcending, and converſing with ſo much freedom and familiarity with the beau-monde, as if they were their equals, and, by that means, free from all conſtraint; and making that ſhort ſpace of time, not only the moſt agreeable to others, but more acceptable, perhaps, to themſelves, than any of their days ſpent in formality at court. Thus, in a word, there is no one ſpot in Europe, where perſons of all ranks and degrees converſe with that familiarity and eaſe, as they do at the Spa.

Some of the moſt illuſtrious perſonages, of both ſexes, who have honoured the Spa with their preſence in former times, are as follow.

In the year 1576 the duke of Nevers, and in 1577 Margaretta de Valois, queen of France and Navarre: ſome authors inſiſt, indeed, that ſhe was never perſonally preſent at the Spa, but that ſhe drank the waters at Liege, in the palace of prince Henry the Third.

In the year 1585, the king of France, and Poland.

In 1589, Alexander Farneſe, duke of Parma, drank the Spa waters at Franchimont; but afterwards, in the years 1591 and 1592, he drank them at the wells themſelves.

Charles the Second, king of England, drank them in 1654.

The king of Denmark, the queen of Sweden, Coſmo, grand duke of Tuſcany, and the celebrated czar, Peter the Great, in the year 1717.

And beſides theſe that drank the waters ſo many years ago, there were a great number of other princes, who, at different times, honoured the Spa with their preſence; but it would be too tedious, and treſpaſs upon the reader's patience too far, were we to ſpecify their reſpective names. 'Tis ſufficient to obſerve, that, in this ſhort catalogue of different royal perſonages, whoſe memories are recorded with the utmoſt veneration and reſpect at the Spa, 'tis ſelf-evident, beyond all controverſy, that theſe mineral waters have been in repute, and drank by numbers of the higheſt rank and degree, for theſe two centuries laſt paſt; and had our hiſtorians been a little more curious and exact in this particular, there is no queſtion to be made, but that the reputation of the Spa waters might have been traced ſtill higher, and juſtly have boaſted of their virtues in more diſtant ages.

Tho' the Spa has been the favourite place of reſidence for the quality of all nations for ages paſt, it never appeared ſo glorious, and in ſuch ſplendor, as it has done within the memory of the preſent age. To demonſtrate this aſſertion, we have nothing more to do than to look into, and examine, the liſts that have been printed within theſe ten years laſt paſt; and there we ſhall find upon record the names of a vaſt number of illuſtrious perſonages who have ſhone there every ſeaſon: and amongſt many others, in the year 1752, his moſt ſerene highneſs and eminence the cardinal duke of Bavaria, biſhop and prince of Liege, and as ſuch, marquis of Franchimont, of which marquiſate the Spa is a part. That prince, who was always accompanied by a very numerous and brilliant retinue, having indulged the Spa with his preſence for ſome ſeaſons before, added to it a peculiar luſtre.

In the year 1753, the princeſs of Lobkowitz, the conſort of the count Uhlefeld, grand maſter of the imperial and royal court, favoured it with her preſence; and in 1754, the prince of Heſſe-Caſſel, the prince and princeſs of Looz-Corſwarem, the dutcheſs of Bridgewater, the prince of Montmorency de Robecq, and the prince Eſterhaſy.

In the year 1755, the field-marſhal de Rutowſky, the princeſs of Kinſky, and the duke and dutcheſs of Eſtonteville.

In 1756, the prince biſhop of Augſbourg, the landgrave of Heſſe-Darmſtadt, the dutcheſs dow-

ager of Aremberg and Arſchot, and the princeſs Adelaide her daughter, and the princeſs de Kinſky.

In the year 1757, the elector of Cologne, the prince biſhop of Augſbourg, the duke of Orleans, the dutcheſs dowager of Guaſtalla, the born dutcheſs of Schleſwig-Holſtein, the prince Tingry de Montmorency Luxembourg, the prince and princeſs of Hornes, and the prince and princeſs of Gallitzin.

In the year 1758, the prince biſhop of Augſbourg, the prince of Salm Salm, duke of Hoogſtraten, who had been there likewiſe ten years before, the prince Tingry and his daughter, and the dutcheſs de Montmorency and Luxembourg.

In 1759, the elector of Cologne, who had likewiſe been there before, the prince biſhop of Augſbourg, the prince of Salm Salm, with his ſon and daughter, prince Charles and the princeſs Frances, the prince and princeſs of Hornes, the prince and princeſs of Lubomirſky, the count de Mander-ſcheid Blanckenheim, with madam the counteſs born princeſs of Salm Salm, the prince de Gauvre, the prince Eſterhaſy, and the duke of St. Albans.

In the year 1760, the prince biſhop of Augſbourg, the prince of Salm Salm, with the prince Maximilian his ſon, the prince and princeſs of Hornes, the prince de Gauvre, and the princeſs de Gauvre his daughter-in-law, and the prince d'Anhold.

In

In 1761 and 1762, the prince royal Clement de Saxe, under the title of the count de Miſnie, the nuncio of the holy ſee at Bruſſels, arch-biſhop of Damas, the landgrave of Heſſe-Khinfels and the princeſs his conſort, the prince of Salm Salm and his ſons, the princes Charles, Francis, and William, the duke D'Aremberg, the prince and princeſs of Gallitzin, the prince de Gauvre, and the prince and princeſs of Lowenſtein. And in each of the years above mentioned, beſides thoſe here ſpecified, an infinite number of lords and ladies of high rank and diſtinction from almoſt every nation in Europe.

And there are very juſt grounds to expect, that in this preſent year the company at the Spa will be equally brilliant, for there are proper apartments already hired for the hereditary prince of Brunſwic, the princeſs of Pruſſia, his moſt ſerene highneſs the prince-biſhop of Augſbourg, and for his royal highneſs prince Clement of Saxe, ſon of the king of Poland: theſe two princes propoſe to be at the Spa about the beginning of July; and the inhabitants are in great expectation of divers other princes, and amongſt the reſt, the prince of Salm Salm, duke of Hoogſtraten. Beſides theſe illuſtrious perſonages thus expected, there are already a great number of perſons of high rank and diſtinction actually on the ſpot; but more particularly thoſe of England and France. Others are likewiſe daily expected, many of whom have actually hired proper apartments, and amongſt others, the lord

viſcount Spencer, grandſon of the late celebrated duke of Marlborough, who has viſited the Spa four times already. The repeated viſits of ſuch a number of illuſtrious perſonages, of all ranks and conditions, is an undeniable evidence of their contentment with, and approbation of, the Spa; either on account of its waters, or the delightful ſituation of the place. In ſhort, the ſeaſons for ſome time paſt have been as brilliant as ever, notwithſtanding the terrors and troubles of the late war, which ſeem to have been no manner of obſtruction to viſiting the Spa.

The glory and ſplendor of the paſt ſeaſons, and the proſpect of much good company this, are flattering hopes of abundance of gaiety and amuſement; and theſe two articles will, no doubt, be the agreeable ſubjects of public converſation.

Some perſons have, at the ſame time, expreſſed their ſurpriſe, that, ſince the Spa is ſo favourite a place, and one ſo conſtantly frequented for ages paſt by perſons of ſuch high rank and condition, the inhabitants never attempted to beautify or improve their town till within the compaſs of a few years laſt paſt. Every one, however, may naturally infer, that the mineral waters of the Spa muſt of neceſſity have in them thoſe innate virtues for which they are ſo univerſally and deſervedly eſteemed, notwithſtanding the ſurpriſing indolence of the antient inhabitants, and the ſhameful neglect of their town, in regard to its decorations and improvement; but

but 'tis now generally allowed, that the preſent inhabitants are wiſer men, and have a better taſte than their predeceſſors, by their making ſuch a variety of new walks, which contribute greatly to the beauty of the place, and render the reſidence there much more commodious than it was in former times. Our party in particular ſeemed highly delighted with the Seven o'clock walk, in which they were then taking their diverſion. The Count, however, notwithſtanding he very readily allowed that it had its peculiar beauties, did not fail of complaining ſtill of ſome neglect in the inhabitants, in not improving to the beſt advantage, for the greater amuſement of their viſiters, the ſeveral little meadows which lie on each ſide of that agreeable walk. There would be room ſufficient, ſaid he, for making ſeveral very commodious reſting-places in proper corners; as alſo, a great variety of little alleys, labyrinths, and woods, the verdure whereof, and the murmur of the waters, by ſeveral little artificial caſcades, which might with eaſe, and at no extravagant expence, be contrived on the ſide of the river; which you muſt allow, gentlemen, would be an inexpreſſible improvement, and highly delightful. Theſe decorations might ſerve to tempt company to ſteal away from one another, in order to enjoy the pleaſure of the freſh air, and at the ſame time indulge now and then in a ſoft repoſe; or at leaſt it would ſerve to add an agreeable variety

to the pleaſure of the walk, not to mention the many other ſecret advantages ariſing from thence, and particularly thoſe of facilitating new contracts of friendſhip, which are the very life and ſpirit of the place. All the company in general, but the ladies in particular, highly applauded the Count's plan; but they could not forbear teſtifying their deſpair of ever ſeeing it carried into execution.

The Baron of * * *, who was a gentleman likewiſe of the ſame party, remarked another viſible neglect of the inhabitants, and a want of taſte; for though 'tis poſſible they may never give into the Count's ſentiments, yet one would think they might, for their own intereſt and advantage, improve that little ground they have in ſuch a manner as would at the ſame time greatly oblige their viſiters. As all that mountain which covers the Spa on the north ſide is expoſed to the heat of the ſun all day long, and as the reflections of it would concenter that heat in a more than common manner, 'tis my opinion, that it would be well worth the proprietors while to cultivate there divers kinds of fruit, at the foot or lower part of that mountain; and I imagine that the produce of grapes, apricots, and peaches, and divers other valuable fruits, would turn to a very good account, eſpecially as they have none growing at the Spa; and what are brought thither come from Liege, and the beauty of them is in a great meaſure loſt in the tranſportation.

That

That ſcheme of yours, Mr. Baron, ſaid one of the ladies, would highly delight ſuch, indeed, as viſit the Spa with little or no other view than to enjoy themſelves, and indulge their appetites, and, by the addition of good company, to give a double reliſh to all their enjoyments; but for ſuch perſons as reſort to the wells for relief at leaſt, if not for an abſolute cure, of thoſe maladies they reſpectively labour under, your project, was it to ſucceed, would be laying a ſnare in their way, and preſenting to their view ſuch temptations and allurements as might prove pernicious obſtructions to the reſtoration of their health, and thereby fruſtrate the principal aim and intention of their viſit. What's that you ſay, madam, replied the Count? Is your ladyſhip of the opinion, that all kinds of fruit in general are unwholeſome, or at leaſt prejudicial to ſuch as are drinking the waters? Moſt undoubtedly they are, ſir, replied the lady. Are they not all of a crude, raw quality, and hard of digeſtion? and are they not prohibited by the phyſicians in all caſes to their patients, be their indiſpoſition what it will? No, Mr. le Count, we are not to indulge our natural inclinations ſo far as not to ſacrifice ſuch little trifles, rather than, by gratifying our taſte, to retard, or obſtruct our cure. Health is a concern of too intereſting a nature to be ſo far neglected. I heartily beg your pardon, madam, replied the Count, if I have offended, in preſuming to contradict your notion; but I flatter myſelf

myſelf you will be no ways diſpleaſed if I convince you of your error in this particular; and the pleaſure that I ſhall take in demonſtrating to you, that the eating of fruit is no ways inconſiſtent with drinking the waters, or any ways detrimental to the patient, will be ſo much the greater, as I am very ſenſible you are no enemy to fruit; and in baffling ſo ill-grounded a prejudice, I ſhall contribute towards the removal of a ſcrupulous conſtraint, which deters you from the enjoyment of one of the moſt precious amuſements of the ſeaſon. I can aſſure your ladyſhip, added he, that though I propoſe to drink the waters, purſuant to preſcription, yet I intend to eat ſuch fruits as pleaſe me moſt, with moderation; ſince they are in reality ſo far from being prejudicial, that my phyſician, inſtead of debarring me from the uſe of them, has adviſed me to indulge myſelf therein, as far as I think proper. What greater authority can reaſonably be produced, to juſtify what I aſſert, than ſuch a frank and unlimited permiſſion? Either your phyſician, ſir, ſaid the lady, was very partial and indulgent in regard to your diſorder, or we muſt imagine, that he found you in ſuch a degree of health as demanded no extraordinary mortification or conſtraint. Madam, replied the Baron, perhaps you may be more thoroughly convinced, when you are ſeriouſly aſſured that I am a real invalid, and ſubject to his preſcription; and yet he has permitted me to eat what quantity of ſtrawberries I think proper, and

ſuch

ſuch other fruits as are moſt agreeable to my palate, and moſt refreſhing. If it be an act of indulgence, madam, I promiſe you I'll lay hold of it, and make the beſt uſe I can of it; and if I may be allowed to make appeal to my own experience, I proteſt ſincerely, madam, that it will confirm and eſtabliſh his opinion, that fruit, in drinking the waters, is altogether innocent and inoffenſive.

This debate, or conference, was held whilſt they were walking on the river-ſide near the walk of Faz, commonly called the Old walk, which conſiſts in a ſmall row of trees, that is frequented by very few, firſt, becauſe 'tis a very ſhort one, and then becauſe its avenues are by no means pleaſant, as they are obſcured by the buildings which ſurround it on all ſides, except when you come juſt upon it, as you return from the meadow contiguous to the Seven o'clock walk, which is the uſual method obſerved, that company need not part till they get into the heart of the town, where, in courſe, no one can be at a great diſtance from his peculiar apartment. The ladies, dropping the diſpute in regard to the uſe of fruit, contented themſelves with ſaying, that they were prepared to talk with their phyſician, not only on ſo important an article, but to revive a diſcourſe relative to the new projects that had been propoſed by the gentlemen for the improvement of their favourite walk; however, with a ſmile, and an air of pleaſantry, they aſked their two worthy

projectors,

projectors, whether they could not find out ſome little commodious ſpot between that of the Old walk and the New to cultivate a little wood, or ſome other rural amuſement. Your thought, ladies, replied the Count, is a very happy one; there is a little piece of ground in the meadow that lies between the walks you mention, which might be converted into a labyrinth, or maze, with little winding alleys, beſides a ſmall wood or two, with avenues, or entries, that might have a communication with both thoſe walks; by which means that of Faz, which at preſent is totally abandoned, would ariſe out of nothing as it were, and have its viſiters, which it never will, unleſs ſome ſuch happy expedient ſhould be contrived. How much more agreeable would our mineral waters prove, ſaid one of the ladies, if the regency of the Spa would but fall in with the notion, and employ two ſuch able and experienced engineers as you are to improve their walks! But, ladies, replied the Count, what we have hitherto planned is not all. To perfect the ſcheme, I would erect a fine fountain, with a variety of little *jet-d'eaux*, in the center of the labyrinth, in order to ſtrike the eye; and not only to give a coolneſs to the walks, but render them well worth viſiting, even at noon-day.

The whole party could not forbear teſtifying their approbation of ſo judicious a plan, and adding their moſt ſanguine wiſhes to ſee it carried into execution. They dropped, however, all farther

farther diſcourſe on thoſe pleaſing ideas, by unanimouſly paſſing their word to be early attendants on the Pouhon well the next morning; which is, as it were, the general rendezvous, or point of meeting, in order to take their flight to the more diſtant fountains.

Moſt of the company are at the Pouhon well by five o'clock, and from thence they remove to Sauveniere, which laſt ſpring is moſt frequented at the beginning of the ſeaſon. Almoſt every patient reſorts to that particular well for the firſt week or fortnight, in order to cool or refreſh himſelf, and by that means prepare himſelf for the uſe of the other ſpring at Geronſtere (ſuch of the company whoſe ſtate of health requires the obſervance of no particular regimen, and to whom one ſpring is equally ſerviceable as another, reſort thither firſt, however, to follow the mode); for there it is, that there are ſeveral experiments made of the virtues of thoſe mineral waters, at the requeſt of ſome perſon of diſtinction, who had informed his phyſician, that he would never be perſuaded of the truth of the argument which he ſupported, namely, that there was a real and eſſential difference between one ſpring of the Spa and another. And as the Sauveniere ſpring was the general place of rendezvous, every one had the curioſity to go thither, in order to hear the phyſician's lecture on ſo critical a topic.

This fountain, or ſpring, is ſituate on an eminence, at the eaſt ſide, and is much about half a league from the town. The road, how-

ever, is rugged, and in ſome meaſure troubleſome and unpleaſant, eſpecially in the going thither, it being upon an aſcent all the way, inſomuch that, notwithſtanding the diſtance is ſo inconſiderable, moſt of its viſiters go thither in machines, or on horſe-back, and for a very ſubſtantial reaſon, and that is, the walk would be apt to throw them into too great a perſpiration, and put them out of breath; in either of which caſes, as the water is very cold, it might prove of dangerous conſequence, as 'tis well known by too fatal experience.

This ſpring, or well, is contained in a very ſmall baſon, round which the drinkers ſtand in order to be ſerved. The water does not flow into it in ſo plentiful a manner as at the Pouhon fountain. Thus, when it was cuſtomary in former times to drink a larger quantity of the Sauveniere ſpring than they do at preſent, the company did not drink ſo faſt, in order to give the ſpring time to repleniſh, eſpecially when the viſiters were more numerous than uſual. This ſmall baſon is covered with a dome, or cupola, compoſed of freeſtone; and the whole is ſurrounded with a low wall.

No ſooner has the viſiter drank his firſt glaſs, but he repairs directly into the hall, which is a very ſpacious place, in order to warm himſelf; and when there is not room ſufficient to accommodate the company, a fire is directly made in the room over it; ſo that this ſpring, which has been greatly neglected, and out of repair, for a

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Sauveniere

long time paſt, is now furniſhed with all the conveniencies and accommodations that can be reaſonably required.

It was in the year 1753, that the regency made this edifice ſo commodious as it appears at preſent, inſtead of being, as was formerly the caſe, nothing more than a poor deſpicable hut, not big enough to ſhelter the company either from the cold or the inclemency of the weather.

The company had juſt time enough to drink a few glaſſes of the waters, and to take a turn or two in the walks, before the phyſician made his appearance. People began to think at laſt, that the pretended lecture was nothing more than a mere impoſition; and 'twas waggiſhly reported, and went current in the place, that the lecture was purpoſely poſtponed, becauſe the doctor was determined to avoid the attack which the ladies had concerted, in revenge, as it were, for the ſeverity of that regimen he had preſcribed. Whilſt this laugh, however, was going forward, in came the phyſician. The ladies began to rally him for his partiality, and indulgence of one patient more than another, and more eſpecially for his prepoſterous permiſſion of eating fruits, whilſt his patients were drinking the waters. In vindication of that heavy charge, he alledged the great difference that there was in the conſtitutions, as well as the diſorders, in regard to one invalid and another, and from thence drew the following concluſion, namely, that the eating of fruit was

far

far from being a matter of no moment or importance in moſt caſes; that the indulgence might prove, indeed, pernicious in ſome particular conſtitutions; but for the generality, it was his opinion, that fruit, eaten with moderation, was not only innocent, but, in ſome caſes, of ſingular ſervice. One of the ladies, upon this peremptory aſſertion, contented herſelf with ſaying, that his ſentiment was a perfect novelty, and ſhe imagined that no water-drinker was ever before indulged in eating any kind of fruit, or roots whatever, becauſe all of them were generally allowed to be crude, raw, and hard of digeſtion. That term of crude which you ſpeak of, madam, replied the doctor, ſeems to have been invented to imply ſomething in effect that was the reverſe of any food properly dreſt, and, for that reaſon, improper for perſons under cure; but we muſt not ſuffer ourſelves to be impoſed on by terms. If we conſult Nature, and not give way to prejudice and prepoſſeſſion, we muſt imagine, that ſince ſhe has furniſhed us in ſo profuſe a manner, with her delicious fruits in their proper ſeaſons, thoſe ſeaſons are the proper times for cooling thoſe hot humours that float about us, which are too apt to turn to corruption, through the violent heats which rage in the ſummer ſeaſon: experience at all times, and by almoſt all perſons, muſt juſtify this preſumption; and ſouriſh fruits are ſo far from being repugnant to the nature of theſe mineral waters, that, abſtracted from the uſe of them, they ſupply us with a kind

of

of natural ſoap, or ſoft ſaline paſte, which will be able to ſupport the diſſolution of the eſtabliſhed principles in thoſe waters, and by that means favour their operation. Thus, notwithſtanding phyſicians, for the generality, have prohibited not only the uſe of fruits, but of milk likewiſe, yet there have never been wanting a ſufficient number of able and experienced phyſicians, ſuch as Boerhaave and Hoffman, who have exploded thoſe vulgar errors; and ſo far were they from prohibiting ſuch kind of intermixtures, as food and medicines together, that they have recommended them, not indiſcriminately indeed, or without all diſtinction, but in abundance of caſes, which would be too tedious here to enumerate. After having obſerved, that moſt phyſicians are men too much biaſſed and prejudiced by cuſtom, 'Tis evident, ſaid he, that they allowed of ſome diſtinctions, which they knew how to make occaſionally, without entering into any particular details of ſuch caſes, and ſo circumſtanced, as plainly to demonſtrate by facts and experience, that the mineral waters of one well, or ſpring, have quite different virtues, or qualities, from thoſe of another.

To demonſtrate this difference, ſaid he, it will be ſufficient, I preſume, ladies and gentlemen, to appeal to your own taſte. There is no one, who, in point of taſting of liquors, has not a different palate or ſenſation of the liquor he drinks, from other people. The Pouhon waters are diſtinguiſhed by their ferruginous and acid taſte; theſe

at

at Geronſtere, by their prevalent ſulphureous quality, and leave only a faint impreſſion, on the tongue, of the ſteel and the acid; on the other hand, the waters of the Sauveniere ſpring are diſtinguiſhable by having the ſavour, or taſte, of both ſulphur and ſteel, in an almoſt equal degree, together with their acidity or ſourneſs: in ſhort, each of them has a different taſte from the other; which ſuppoſes, or infers, that they have ſome different principles, either in their natures, their affinage, or refining, or in their combination: every one muſt agree to this remark. The Count aſked the Doctor hereupon, whether the Groeſbeeck ſpring was endued with the ſame qualities, or virtues, as that at Sauveniere. 'Tis generally imagined, ſir, replied the Phyſician, that there can be no apparent difference in the virtues of thoſe two ſprings, ſince they are not diſtant from each other above five and twenty feet at fartheſt. The differences, however, between them and the waters of Groeſbeeck are very apparent, even to the taſte, as being more tart and acid.

The difference, moreover, between all theſe waters may be diſtinguiſhed by divers other ways and means, not yet mentioned. That they may effectually, ſaid the Count, and to all intents and purpoſes; for to me it appears plain, that the ſoil which they depoſit, or leave at the bottom, or on the walls of their reſpective baſons, is of a quite different colour from that at Pouhon.

And

And moreover, ſaid the Phyſician, they have apparently another taſte. Accordingly he collected a ſmall quantity of that yellow ſoil upon the point of a knife, which he termed the rubric: they plainly perceived that it had a ſweet taſte; whereas that at the Pouhon is ſharp, and will make the tongue ſmart. There is another very eſſential difference in thoſe waters at Geronſtere, added the Phyſician; the ſoil, or ſand, that precipitates, or ſinks down to the bottom of the baſon there, is of a whitiſh colour, and the rubric does not ſeparate till the ſecond reſolution in the ſink, or bottom of the baſon. The Doctor explained, and gave divers reaſons for the ſeveral differences above mentioned, that appeared ſatisfactory enough to ſome few that were preſent, but not to the much greater part of the company, who had no idea, or inſight, into the arcana, or ſecrets of the chemiſts.

The analyſis, continued the Phyſician, is another method of forming a right judgment of the different virtues, or qualities, of thoſe waters; for by evaporation one may procure their eſtabliſhed elements, which at once are diſtinguiſhed or divided into three parts. If we expoſe a quantity of the mineral waters in any veſſel, or glaſs, to a fire, till it is moderately hot, we ſhall plainly diſcover the ſucceſſive degrees of their reſolution. In the firſt place, we ſhall diſcern, either at the ſurface, the ſides, or bottom of the glaſs, divers little airy bubbles, which gradually augmenting in

in number and ſize, embelliſh the glaſs, as it were, with a ſet of pearls. Theſe bubbles riſe to the ſurface, and there break. In proportion as the acid diſengages itſelf, or flies off, and becomes free, the acid taſte grows more quick and poignant; the bubbles multiply; the waters firſt aſſume a whitiſh, and then a yellowiſh colour: in the whole proceſs there are different phœnomena, which your adepts in chemiſtry obſerve with pleaſure. When all the ferruginous particles thereof are precipitated or ſunk down, if part of the water be ſtrained through a piece of brown paper, theſe particles, intermixed with a ſmall quantity of the unctuous ſoil, will remain on the felt, in the form of the rubric; and this accounts for the formation of the rubric itſelf, which naturally precipitates, and ſettles at the bottom of all the ſprings. When we evaporate the filtered water, we procure a ſaline ſubſtance from it, from which we ſeparate ſtill a remnant of ſuch earthy matter. Thus 'tis evident, that there are three fixed elements, or principles, in theſe waters, which are diſcovered by their evaporation, namely, the ſteel, the ſalt, and an earthy ſubſtance; but ſtill the quantity collected from different ſprings is greatly unequal. The Pouhon water contains, in a pound of it, no leſs than ſix grains and a quarter of the ſubſtances above mentioned; a pound of Geronſtere water will produce two grains and a quarter only; and the other ſpring waters ſtill leſs. 'Tis the ſteel that is the moſt prevailing part of thoſe fixed principles; from whence 'tis

demonſtrable,

demonſtrable, that the Pouhon well contains in it two thirds more of the ſteel than any of the other ſprings. There are, however, divers other very ſimple and plain experiments, whereby we may diſcover ſome of theſe principles evidently enough, and the difference between one ſpring and another. Such experiments, we flatter ourſelves, may prove an agreeable amuſement to thoſe gentlemen and ladies who have never ſeen any thing of the like nature, and will confirm at the ſame time what I have before obſerved relative to the taſte, and the reſidues, or remainders, of the evaporation. Theſe experiments, therefore, ſhall be made on the Pouhon and Sauveniere waters, in order to demonſtrate the compariſon.

Four drops of a ſtrong decoction from the gall-nut, added to two ounces of the Pouhon water, give it inſtantaneouſly a violet colour, which in four or five minutes time will change to a full blue: now the ſame number of drops of the ſame decoction, added to the ſame quantity of the Sauveniere water, will only convert it to a purple, and that but very ſlowly; and that will never change to a blue. Teas, eſpecially green tea, and all aſtringent vegetables, will have the ſame effect. This purple, violet, blue, or blackiſh colour, which the tea and the other aſtringents give the waters, demonſtrate the preſence of the ſteel, which they precipitate, or ſettle from their diſſolvent. The more diſtant the colour is from the purple, and approaches nearer to the blue or black, the water contains ſo much the greater

quantity

quantity of ſteel; and thus this experiment evidently ſhews, excluſive of the evaporation, that the Pouhon water has a larger quantity of ſteel in it than that of Sauveniere; and ſo likewiſe of all the reſt of the ſprings that the Spa can boaſt of.

If I add but a ſmall quantity of the blue tincture of the turnſol to theſe mineral waters, they will give it immediately a very lively red colour; but if I make uſe of the Pouhon water, the colour will ſtill prove a higher and more lively red. This experiment diſcovers the acidity of thoſe waters.

On the other hand, the beautiful red colour of the tincture of orchanetter, or orchal, converts it to a blue, but a much deeper blue in caſe 'tis mixt with the Pouhon; and this is the effect of the alkaline ſalt.

The ſyrup of violets, which is of a fine blue colour, demonſtrates likewiſe their alkaline ſalt, by converting it to a green colour, which the waters communicate to it, and thoſe of Pouhon more than any other.

All theſe experiments diſcover, not only the preſence of the ſteel, but of the acid ſpirit, and alkaline ſalt, contained in the water; and ſhew plainly, that the Pouhon water abounds with thoſe principles, or elements, more than any of the other ſprings.

Theſe variations of the colour gave the company ſo great ſatisfaction, that they requeſted the Phyſician to make ſome farther experiments in the ſame taſte.

There

There are divers other variations in point of colour, ſaid the Doctor, to be obſerved, by mixing different chemical preparations with the waters; but then they do not ſo manifeſtly diſcover their reſpective principles; 'tis agreeable enough, however, to ſee how the tranſparent fluids receive ſuch different colours, or become dark or obſcure, by means only of a little ſimple mixture.

A few drops of the oil of tartar, or of the diſſolution of the ſalt of ſaturn, or that of mercury ſublimated corroſive, will, when mixt with the waters, give them a whitiſh or lacteous colour. The diſſolution of ſilver, through the ſtrength of the water, makes a whitiſh precipitation at once; but then, in a ſhort time, it will change to a bluiſh purple.

The diſſolution of mercury produces inſtantly a lacteous or milky colour, which afterwards turns, firſt to a clear yellow, and then to a deep brown.

Every ſhadowing of the colours, be they what they will, are deepened by the Pouhon waters much more viſibly than by any other ſpring whatever belonging to the Spa; which evidently ſhews, as well as the evaporation, that 'tis more fortified, or charged, with fixt principles, and acid ſpirits, than any other ſpring there, whatſoever.

All theſe experiments very manifeſtly ſhew the difference of the Pouhon ſpring from all the reſt. What diſtinguiſhes, however, the waters of the

Geronſtere from any other, is principally its ſubtile ſulphur, which cannot poſſibly be miſtaken, not only on account of its peculiar taſte, but its ſmell likewiſe, which is very perceptible, and ſtrikes the noſtrils ſometimes at ſeveral feet diſtance from the ſpring; and more particularly its ſulphureous and whitiſh matter, which precipitates and ſettles at the bottom of its baſon; as alſo its ſulphureous plaiſter of oak-leaves, with which it is plentifully covered in the winter; and thoſe leaves, when duly dried, are commonly made uſe of to light their fires, and in their burning have a ſulphureous ſmell, like a parcel of matches. 'Tis not, indeed, above ten years ſince I firſt made this obſervation: before that, it was the general and received opinion, that the ſulphureous qualities of thoſe waters were loſt in their evaporation, and there was no poſſibility of fixing them, inſomuch that ſuch as were incredulous were apt to laugh at it as a mere chimerical notion, and to deny any ſuch quality to be exiſtent in the waters. The analogy that is evident both in the taſte and ſmell of the Sauveniere waters, with thoſe of the Geronſtere ſpring, now gives credit to its exiſtence in both of them; but 'tis in leſs quantity, it is true, and more blended with other principles, in the latter, as is plainly evident by the leſs impreſſion it makes on the ſmell and taſte; and through the want of a primary diſſolution, as is obſervable at Geronſtere, on its more cloſe and intimate combination with the other principles, its ſoapy quality, or nature, ſeems principally to depend;

depend; from whence 'tis highly probable that the ſpring derives it name from the French term *ſavon*, that is ſoap, and, by a viſible corruption of the word, is now called Sauveniere.

Thus, gentlemen, replied the Phyſician, have I ſhewn you the natural differences which I have from time to time obſerved in our mineral waters. Their moſt eſſential differences, however, are thoſe, which obſervation has furniſhed us with, of their influences and effects on the human body. 'Tis obſervation that demonſtrates their various effects, and 'tis the analyſis which is aiding and aſſiſting to us in the explication.

As a particular detail, or a more circumſtantial explication of their influences, could, I am very ſenſible, be of little ſervice, and no manner of entertainment to any here preſent, unleſs of the faculty, I hope the company will excuſe my dropping that too occult and intricate topic.

The gentlemen, however, who were his auditors, requeſted the favour of him, that he would give them a general idea, at leaſt, of the virtues of thoſe waters, and of their differences with reſpect to that uſe which they were then going to make of them; and that he would indulge them with ſuch a detail, or account, in the hall, where they propoſed to breakfaſt at the Spa, which was to conſiſt of chocolate, as alſo ſome fine wines and biſcuits, which a perſon of diſtinction had kindly provided for that particular purpoſe. That mark of gallantry was no ways diſpleaſing to the ladies, who had been longer

detained than they expected, and that the hour for breakfaſt was, by a cuſtom or habit, ſo ſettled and fixed that it would not admit of any longer delay, on account of that craving appetite which the drinking of the waters naturally creates.

They drank, they ate, they laughed: there were, however, ſome more curious than the reſt, who preſſed the Doctor to expatiate on the conſequences of the analyſis, for their farther information in regard to practice. They were leſs indebted, however, he told them, to the analyſis, than to obſervation and experience, for the beſt and moſt approved rules for the regulation of their practice. Who would not imagine, continued he, that the waters of Pouhon were more ſtrengthening, and more comfortable, than any of the other ſprings, were he to form his judgment from the ſuperior quantity of ſteel that they can juſtly boaſt of beyond all the reſt? And yet conſtant obſervation, at all times, demonſtrates, beyond contradiction, that the waters of Geronſtere are more efficacious in caſes of relaxation, imbecillity, or weakneſs, numbneſs, or want of feeling, faintneſs, or inaction of the nerves; as alſo in caſes of conſumption, ſlackneſs, and decay of the humours both clammy and cold. 'Tis in the cure of theſe infirmities, that the virtues of theſe waters are ſo very conſpicuous: 'tis principally owing to the ſulphureous qualities that are in them; ſince 'tis by that principle that they chiefly differ from all the others, and are looked upon as the moſt prevailing,

ing, and indeed the only waters, for the cure of the above-mentioned diſorders.

The waters of the Pouhon ſpring are a ſovereign remedy for all obſtructions of the liver, and other parts of the bowels; and in ſeveral caſes of relaxation, they help to corroborate and brace up the fibres, before they are revived or reanimated by the waters of Geronſtere. Theſe wonderful effects are owing to their ſteel, and their acid ſpirit.

The Sauveniere ſpring has been ever made uſe of with great ſucceſs in acrimonious caſes, for relief to thoſe who are afflicted with the gravel, ulcers, or any defects in the urinary paſſages: by the firſt of its qualities there are few caſes with which it diſagrees; at leaſt, 'tis ſerviceable by way of preparation, being very fit for mollifying the acrimonious humours, before we give the fibres their free play, or brace them up, which might, in ſome meaſure, create an exaſpiration, through a too violent determination of thoſe acrimonious humours on the ſenſible fibres.

'Tis by long experience, and a due eſtimation of the various circumſtances that attend a diſtemper, that we abſolutely determine our choice, and prefer one ſpring to another; make uſe of one, or more, at the ſame time, or alternately, according to the different conſtitution or diſorder of the patient. Sometimes we are at a loſs, and are obliged to conſult on the caſe before we determine or fix our choice; and conſequently it would be too long and tedious to attempt it in a

curſory diſſertation upon ſo precarious and diſputable a topic: it is ſufficient for my purpoſe, therefore, here only to remark, with reference to this ſpring in particular, where we now are, that it ought firſt to be made uſe of before any of the other ſprings (as I obſerved before), by way of preparation; and that it is not always frequented, and without any variation, except where the diſorder happens to be the gravel, the ſcurvy, the gout, or any chronic diſtemper. "Where "monks," ſays an author who wrote formerly on this ſubject, "with their carbuncled faces, come "to pay to this particular fountain their tribute "of pious indolence and inactivity, on account of "their indulgence in drinking to exceſs. On "this account, indeed, the Sauveniere ſpring may, "with great propriety, be termed the eccleſiaſtic "well; for it ſwarms with prieſts, monks, and "nuns, who all reſort to her, either for relief in "carrying off gravel, or in diſſolving the ſtone, or "in allaying the violent heat of a too ruddy coun-"tenance from exceſs, or in aſſuaging the he-"morrhoids or piles, or ſome other caſual weak-"neſs, ariſing from a ſedentary life, or a too "ſhameful indulgence in luxury and eaſe."

This very ſevere anti-monachal ſarcaſm of my brother-author ſeems a little too rude and audacious in a country where prieſts bear a great ſway, and are treated, for the generality, with the utmoſt veneration and reſpect. The company made themſelves merry, and laughed at that contraſt, or wide difference which they made between

their

their doctrines and their practice. The Phyſician ſoftened the rigour of the charge, or aſperſion, as well as he could, by maintaining that ſuch exceſſes were to be imputed but to a few, and that they were only particular defects; that they ought not to be ſuppoſed to be general, or to occur often; and that, when they do, they are frequently occaſioned through want of proper exerciſe, and a too cloſe application to their ſtudies.

As ſoon as breakfaſt was over, ſome of the company made the beſt of their way to the Spa: our new-comers, however, who had not, as yet, ſeen all the curioſities that are to be met with in the environs, or places adjacent to that fountain, were loth to poſtpone their ſurvey to any future opportunity; which induced ſome of the company to ſtay behind, and take the tour with them. Accordingly they ſet out, and left no part that was near the fountain unviſited.

The ſituation of this ſpring is perfectly agreeable, ſtanding in the centre of a ſmall foreſt, the adjacent parts whereof ſtrike the eye in the moſt agreeable manner, and in which are contrived ſeveral little alleys, or walks, that are exceedingly delightful. Beſides the two principal walks, there are ſeveral other little alleys, edged, and new covered with buſhes, moſt of them cut out and contrived in the form of a labyrinth, which runs all along the ſide of a rivulet, the murmur of whoſe gentle ſtreams, and the fall of the little caſcades, which are artfully contrived at a proper

diſtance from each other, added to the verdure and coolneſs of the place, all concentring in one little ſpot of ground, conſtitute it a very agreeable rural amuſement, and a paradiſe in miniature. In thoſe meandring alleys there are little commodious arbours, with proper ſeats in each of them, where one may ſit and enjoy the freſh air without the leaſt interruption; and at the ſame time be entertained, either with the agreeable noiſe of the little caſcades at a diſtance, or the melody of the birds, which reſide in numbers all round the artificial grove. For the further amuſement of its viſiters, there are divers places that gratify the eye with the moſt beautiful landſcapes. At a conſiderable diſtance, you have there an uninterrupted proſpect of lofty ſteeples, villages, foreſts, and large plains, for the moſt part covered with heath, or broom; and all, thus combined together, conſtitute one of the moſt delightful perſpective views that can well be imagined.

Upon the terrace behind the fountain, there is a large ſquare, that is uncultivated, and perfectly level, to which you aſcend by a double range of ſteps, or, if you chuſe to avoid them, by an eaſy, gradual, and almoſt imperceptible aſcent, through divers little meandring alleys, which have a communication with one of the ſides. This ſquare is terminated by one of the larger walks.

The Count allowed theſe walks to be artfully enough contrived, and highly commended the taſte of

of the nation in the diſpoſal of thoſe little arbours, or bowers, which are ſo judiciouſly contrived, that they ſeemed rather to be wrought by the hand of nature than by the dint of art, which, doubtleſs, is a great additional beauty. The Counſellor, however, who knew very well the origin of theſe decorations, very impartially aſſured him, that the whole management of that affair was not with juſtice to be imputed to the artful contrivance of the nation, as he imagined, but to the ingenuity of divers foreigners, whoſe names are particularly recorded in the liſts of ſuch ſtrangers as viſited the Spa in the years 1753 and 1754; by which it viſibly appears, that the much greater part of the contributors to ſuch an agreeable improvement of that place were natives of England; for it was conducted principally according to the taſte and direction of one Mr. Berkeley, who was a very valuable and able aſſiſtant, to whom the inhabitants of the Spa are indebted both for the plan and the carrying of it into execution; and to his judgment likewiſe are they equally obliged for thoſe other walks on the mountains behind the town, which are equally agreeable and amuſing.

It was dinner-time before the company returned to the Spa; but our new-comers withdrew to their reſpective apartments that day, and choſe to dine in private. They all agreed, however, to meet at the aſſembly by five o'clock. As ſome of the company were at a loſs how to paſs away their time after dinner, till the hour appointed

for their re-meeting, the Chevalier went to the bookſeller's for a little literary amuſement during that ſhort interval. There are two ſhops pretty well ſtocked with books, the proprietors whereof conſtantly attend every ſeaſon for drinking the waters: but he went to that bookſeller's who has the ſole privilege of printing the liſt of all new viſiters, becauſe he was pre-engaged, by his going thither for the liſts on his firſt arrival, and by his becoming a ſubſcriber for thoſe periodical papers. The gentry of the Spa very ſeldom make choice of any other books than plays, poems, or novels; and ſuch are beſt calculated for amuſement, and diſpelling the ſpleen or the vapours; for, as the waters have a natural tendency towards making their drinkers a little drowſy, all lectures in divinity, philoſophy, or the mathematics, that require a cloſe attention, are formally prohibited, as improper amuſements for ſo gay a place.

About five they all repaired with ſpeed to the aſſembly, which is kept at one of the moſt ſpacious houſes in the town, and to which all the beau-monde, of both ſexes, generally reſort. No money is depoſited for admiſſion; 'tis the game there that defrays the expences. Each perſon that plays any game at cards pays two ſhillings. There are different tables for different parties, as well as variety of diverſions; but as the agreeable walks belonging to the Sauveniere ſpring were ſo near at hand, and as the weather happened to prove very calm and ſerene, our new-comers

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ſeemed more inclined to amuſe themſelves with taking the freſh air, than to ſit down to a card-table, and therefore propoſed to take a tour about the mountains. The propoſition was readily approved of, and in order thereto they concluded to take their route by the Four o'clock meadow, which is ſituate above the town, but not above fifty yards from it, on the right-hand of the little river that runs through it. The field is ſo called from the ſun's going off from it at that hour, and the air about that time begins to be freſh and cool. There is no getting there, however, but by a path-way, that is very rugged and ſtony, exceedingly narrow, and cut out of the very rock, on that ſide which leads to Aix-la-chapelle. That rock, which you leave on the left in going thither, is very high and very ſteep, and ſtrikes the eye with a kind of horror; becauſe 'tis a quarry from whence the inhabitants are ſupplied with broad ſtone for their buildings, and farther, becauſe there are ſome ſhelves there, that ſeem to hang but looſely, and ready to tumble down. This meadow, ſo highly in repute formerly by the drinkers of the Spa waters, owed its peculiar merit to the great ſcarcity of walks about the Spa in thoſe times; ſo true is that general maxim, "That ſcarcity enhances the value of all things." At preſent, as 'tis let to a private farmer, who has encloſed it, and only allowed the public a narrow paſſage to the entry thereof, which was firſt made at the foot of the mountain about eight years ſince, it is not reckoned amongſt the number of walks belonging to the Spa. It

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is highly probable, that thoſe which have ſince been made in divers other places, have made ample compenſation for that loſs: in the main, however, it muſt be no ſmall diſappointment to the public; becauſe there is no ſuch thing as diverſifying the amuſements of the place, nor of multiplying their walks, too much in ſuch a place as the Spa is; eſpecially as that meadow was worth but little, might be embelliſhed with a moderate expence, and was ſooner ſhady in the day than any other they can boaſt of; and further, becauſe a little river runs along-ſide of it, which flows with a rapid current upon the ſtones, and ſometimes forms petty caſcades, the noiſe of which waters, together with the gentle breezes from the trees, with which the mountain is covered, produces conſtantly ſuch a lulling and delightful ſound as would afford a remedy, if not, a relief at leaſt, to one affected by melancholy, that ſubtile poiſon, which, inſinuating itſelf into, or, for the generality, accompanying moſt chronic diſorders, becomes frequently a very aggravating circumſtance, than which nothing can be more pernicious, or of worſe conſequence, in point of drinking the waters.

The concerts, moreover, which formerly were held frequently there, and had ſomething in them ſo very agreeable and ſo charming, muſt be, doubtleſs, an article on which may juſtly be grounded a regret of the loſs; for ſometimes there was a band of French-horns on one ſide of the meadow, and a company of haut-boys on the

the other; all which inſtruments playing together, the ſounds thereof were repeated by the echoes from the mountains with inceſſant melody; and ſometimes the company were entertained there with vocal muſic, accompanied by harps and violins, the ſymphony whereof ſtruck the attention with a thouſand charms. At this juncture, that delightful little meadow is made no other uſe of than as a narrow paſſage into the walks upon the mountains, by means of a flight of ſteps contrived at the foot of them.

The company went up the ſteps which lead to thoſe alleys, that are cut out of the mountains in form of zig-zags, and were contrived by the above-named able and experienced gardener, Mr. Berkeley. Theſe walks are ſomewhat too long and tedious in ſome places, though very agreeable, as they run from one end of the town to the other, from the Four o'clock meadow to the Seven o'clock walk. There is a way, however, for contracting them, by a deſcent into the Faz walk, or otherwiſe into the road that leads to Aix-la-chapelle. Theſe walks are plentifully ſtocked with fine tall oaks, and planted very cloſe to each other, the verdure whereof naturally renders them inexpreſſibly cool and delightful. There are likewiſe here and there little vacancies, or openings, to be met with in paſſing along, which afford the fineſt proſpects imaginable, and are all contrived in the Engliſh taſte. There are ſcarce any gentlemen or ladies who viſit the Spa, unleſs ſuch as are infirm and incapable of clambering

up,

up, but frequently take this moſt agreeable and amuſing tour. As the environs of the Spa are extremely variegated, and principally conſiſt in little hillocks, covered with graſs; and lofty mountains, the tops whereof abound with a variety of trees and buſhes; in valleys, rocks, rivers, and caſcades; the aſſemblage of ſuch a number of different objects, though wild, and, for the moſt part, uncultivated, give the viſiter, when once upon the top, ſuch a proſpect as ſtrikes the eye in the moſt delightful manner.

Before you have gained one third part of the aſcent, you come to a verdant arbour, much admired by moſt Bobelins. This arbour is a pretty little rural ſpot, and has nothing diſguſtful belonging to it, but the name given it, which is too indelicate to be mentioned. 'Tis furniſhed with ſeats made upon the rock, and covered over with verdant turfs, in ſuch a manner as to form a canopy over head, or a kind of alcove. As the rock projects a conſiderable way, the ſpot is perfectly ſecured from the wind that might caſually blow from the north; and there are divers large oak trees planted on the ſides, which ſupply the place of a ſpacious umbrella all the day long. The company ſoon diſcovered, that no ſituation could well be happier for a concert, and therefore concluded, regardleſs of its unlucky name, to reſort there, time after time, for that enchanting and delightful purpoſe. Accordingly, a few paſſionate, ſoft ſonnets were immediately ſung therein, by way of ſpecimen, and the caſual

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experiment anſwered their warmeſt wiſhes. The whole party, even the ladies, were perfectly reconciled to the arbour, and unanimouſly allowed it to be juſtly deemed one of the beauties of the Spa.

After they had reſted themſelves here for a while, they aſcended higher, till they came to a grand croſs, which is the moſt favourable point of ſight for a ſurvey of the whole town; and 'tis from thence you have the proſpect of it in its utmoſt beauty and perfection. As they came upon the deſcent, they met with another point of view that perfectly charmed them; and that was at the corner of a ſmooth rock, from whence they could plainly diſcover the principal beauties of the Spa, and more particularly its interior parts. This ſpot, for that reaſon, is genenerally termed the Belle-videra, becauſe it ſtrikes the eye in ſo delightful a manner, and forms one of the fineſt landſcapes that can poſſibly be conceived.

Our party accompliſhed the whole tour of the adjacent mountains; and whilſt they were intent on admiring every rural beauty that caſually occurred, the proſpects whereof were moſt agreeably diverſified almoſt every ſtep they took, they inſenſibly, as it were, arrived at the Seven o'clock walk, which was then full of the beſt company; but having only taken one tour there, they all returned to their reſpective apartments by conſent, as being heartily tired with their long day's amuſement.

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For ſeveral ſucceeding days they all frequented the Sauveniere ſpring, and were every day charmed with walking about its environs. There they likewiſe drank the waters with ſome degree of pleaſure; becauſe, in fact, they are no ways diſagreeable to the taſte, and their coolneſs is very refreſhing.

One morning the Baron of * * * * ſtrolled thither by chance; upon which the ladies began to rally him on account of his wavering temper, and his inconſtancy to the nymph Geronſtere, for whom, and her waters, he profeſſed ſuch a peculiar regard. However, as the waters of that ſpring, by their nature and application, had ſet the humours afloat, and he found them ſomewhat exaſperated, his phyſician had adviſed him, he ſaid, to viſit the Sauveniere ſpring for two or three days, to allay, in ſome meaſure, that irritation; as inſtances of the like nature may be produced almoſt every day. On that very day the Sauveniere well ſwarmed with company of both ſexes to that degree, that 'twas with ſome difficulty the crowd got to the well. However, one of the foremoſt ladies, when placed before it, and a glaſs of water, according to cuſtom, was delivered to her by one of the attendants, immediately threw the water upon the ground with an air of diſguſt, and more than ordinary reluctance, and without waiting for any query why ſhe was ſo diſguſted, cried out aloud,—Phaugh! —who can endure to drink a drop of this filthy water? and turning herſelf about, added, in

diſtinct

diſtinct terms enough to be heard, There's a naſty devil of a woman yonder, waſhing her gouty feet in the well!—In the well, madam! cried another lady, perfectly aſtoniſhed: fie for ſhame; ſuch a poiſonous trick is abſolutely inexcuſable! —'Tis poſſible, however, ſaid the Counſellor, that the lady ſo offended might be miſtaken. But as the lady ſo peremptorily atteſted the fact, and that ſhe was an eye-witneſs thereof, the Count looked upon it as a nauſeous action ſo inconteſtable, that he very readily joined with the lady, and publicly declared ſhe had very juſt reaſon to be offended. There was a woman, ſure enough, that had one foot in the water, and came afterwards to the ſpring, and drank her glaſs. But then, ſaid the Counſellor, the water, into which ſhe had put her naked foot, was not that in the fountain, or ſpring itſelf, but in a ſink-hole, or common-ſewer, at but a very ſmall diſtance, indeed, from the well; in ſhort, the woman only clapt her foot in a little hole, contrived for the better conveyance of the waſte water. The lady, and the reſt of the company, in order to gratify their curioſity in ſo delicate an article, went directly to the ſpot where the offence, as they imagined, was committed. Upon examination, they all readily acknowledged their miſtake, and aſked what could be the meaning of ſo ſingular an action; whether 'twas the reſult of any idle ſuperſtitious notion, or owing to the advice and direction of her phyſician. Indeed, ladies, ſaid a prieſt who happened to be there, 'tis the reſult

ſult of both, as moſt people imagine, but in my humble opinion 'tis nothing more than a ſenſeleſs act of ſuperſtition, and an idle ridiculous notion imbibed by the vulgar. That hole, ſaid he, into which the poor weak woman thruſt her foot, as the lady obſerved, is nothing more, properly ſpeaking, than a ſtone that was ſo hollowed by mere accident, or elſe on purpoſe, with no other view than a diſcharge of the water when the ſpring is emptied in the winter. As the form of that hole reſembles in ſome meaſure that of a ſhoe, it was preſently concluded, through the dint of imagination, that 'twas the actual impreſſion of a man's foot; and thereupon was originally grounded that ſuperſtitious practice. The ſuperſtitious part of the inhabitants of the town imagined that St. Remocles, who was the patron of the Spa, and the founder of the two ſeveral convents at Malmedi and Stavelot, which are diſtant about three ſmall leagues from the Spa, reſided formerly in the environs of the Sauveniere ſpring; that the antient hut, which was there ſubſiſting about eight years ago, before the preſent building was erected upon the ruins of his hermitage; and that the peculiar virtues of that ſpring were wholly owing, in a miraculous manner, to that good man's former reſidence on that bleſſed ſpot. This frivolous and impertinent ſtory was ſoon improved by the devotees into ſomething beyond even a miracle; for when once people lend an attentive ear to one ſtory, a hundred idle fictions are grounded with eaſe upon it, through

through the warmth of an enthuſiaſtic imagination. Accordingly 'tis firmly believed by ſome, and boldly aſſerted by others, that a certain devotee diſcovered, by virtue of a revelation to him one night, that St. Remocles, being once upon a time very fervent in his devotions, and afterwards falling aſleep by mere accident, clapt one of his feet upon that ſtone, and had left that impreſſion which is now viſible thereon, to compenſate, in ſome meaſure, for that trivial defect; but as he repaired it afterwards by ſome fervent act of devotion, he had left behind him, in that hole, ſuch an impreſſion of ſanctity, as made it the ſource, or fountain, of a thouſand wonders. This hole, diſtinguiſhed by the venerable name of St. Remocles's foot, is ſo remarkable for its various innate virtues and miraculous effects, that every woman who has the misfortune to be barren, and longs with impatience for a ſon and heir, moſt aſſuredly becomes pregnant, if ſhe only drinks nine glaſſes of the ſpring for nine days afterwards ſucceſſively, and by waſhing her foot each time in that bleſſed hole, and has but faith enough to believe, that ſhe ſhall conceive upon her punctual compliance with that pious inſtitution. It was this motive, ladies, that induced the good woman to be ſeemingly guilty of that imputation which you laid to her charge, firmly believing that in nine months afterwards the miracle would have its due operation, and by that means ſhe ſhould become a comfort to her diſconſolate huſband. The Counſellor confirmed the ſtory, and

aſſured

aſſured the company, that it was a religious ceremony impoſed upon the fair ſex to his certain knowledge. And I no ways doubt, ſaid the Chevalier, but the miracle met with the deſired ſucceſs, if the huſband be but as young and ſprightly, and as credulous as the lady. Alas, ſir! replied the Abbot, the operation of the miracle is not ſo eaſy as you imagine; for that woman, though not thirty years of age, has had two huſbands already, excluſive of her ſeveral gallants, with whom ſhe was remarkably free when ſhe was but twenty, and yet never was bleſſed with a child. Till this critical juncture, ſhe never concerned herſelf much about the affair; but her third huſband, who is very rich, and very old, threatens to make his will, and cut her off with a ſhilling, unleſs ſhe brings him a ſon and heir. If that be the true ſtate of the caſe, replied one of the ladies, I neither wonder at, nor blame her for, the warmth of her devotion. I can't ſay, however, but I think it ill-grounded; and I imagine a ſmart young prieſt, whoſe conſcience is not over tender, would render the miracle ſafe and ſecure. And, as for my part, added the Count, I imagine that the many fine walks that are to be met with in the environs of the fountain were contrived in order to facilitate the ſucceſs of the like miraculous operations. Sure I am, there is many a ſpot that ſeems extremely well calculated for that particular purpoſe. The town of Aix, Schwalbach, and divers other places, where theſe mineral waters are equally in vogue,

vogue, and drank with the ſame view, frequently perform this grand miracle. And in the very ſame manner, ſaid the Baron; and 'tis upon very good grounds, that ſome citizens of Francfort, as we are credibly informed, formerly made a particular covenant in their marriage-articles, that their wives ſhould viſit the Schwalbach wells but twice during life, for fear, through the prolific quality of the waters, the family ſhould be over-run with children.

The ſpleen and ill nature of a droll poet, who drank the waters of Aix, unravels this myſterious notion, and ſets it in a very ludicrous light, in a few French verſes, which in plain Engliſh proſe is to the effect following.

"Who will, Mr. Oliva, may drink your "waters for me. I abſolutely renounce them. "And notwithſtanding you boaſt ſo much of "their prolific virtues, and tell me that they "make more cuckolds in one ſeaſon, than they "perform any other cures in ſeven, I muſt tell "you, as frankly and freely, that your boaſted "waters are flat and inſipid, and have not "one ſingle good quality to recommend them." —Or, the ſum and ſubſtance of this ſarcaſm may be compriſed in the following tetraſtic.

"I tell you, old friend, I'll drink none of your
"waters,
"Tho' you boaſt they're of help to ſons and
"to daughters;

"For

" For I'm fully convinc'd, when the belly ſo
" ſwells,
" There is ſomething more in it thān barely the
" wells."

I perceive very plainly, gentlemen, ſaid the Abbot, that you are perfect ſtrangers to our St. Remocles. There is no obſtruction, added he, with a ſneer and a grin, but what he can inſtantly remove. His virtues are abſolutely reſiſtleſs. His ſanctity has ſoftened this rock more than once, Pray, gentlemen, do but obſerve, there's another place where he has left the plain impreſſion of his hand. After he had ſaid this, he pointed to a ſtone, where there appears, in effect, a ſhapeleſs figure, like fingers ſtretched out, which is one of nature's vagaries, in which ſhe ſometimes indulges herſelf, for the aſtoniſhment of weak bigots and enthuſiaſtics. Oh! ſaid a young lady immediately, of wit and ſpirit, whoſe faith in theſe kind of miracles was none of the ſtrongeſt, for this particular occurrence, I ſhall for ever hereafter revere that matchleſs miracle-monger of yours; for, if we may form an adequate idea of that holy man from the impreſſions of his hands and feet, he muſt certainly be looked upon as the greateſt ſaint of his age: I no ways queſtion, but he was the father of St. Chriſtopher; and had Rabelais been ſo happy as to have known him, he would, doubtleſs, have found a place for him in the genealogy of his Pantagruel. This facetious ſarcaſm, delivered with ſuch an air

of gravity, ſet all the company in a perfect titter.

The Abbot, however, ſeeming ſomewhat diſguſted at their ſudden burſt of laughter, they, with abundance of courteſy and complaiſance, begged his pardon, and aſſured him that it was not intended as any indignity offered to his profeſſion; for they were moſt of them catholics, as well as himſelf; but what they laughed at was nothing more than an ingenious piece of raillery on the monſtrous credulity of the vulgar, whoſe ſenſeleſs reveries juſtly demanded their pity and compaſſion, and no ways affected the real ſanctity or merit of the ſaint; neither was it ſpoke with any immoral deſign, or with a view to reflect on any one article of the Chriſtian faith. The Abbot, thus convinced of the innocence of the lady's ſmart obſervation, and that ſhe meant nothing more than a little witticiſm on the folly and ſuperſtition of the credulous populace, to teſtify his ſatisfaction in their apology, conducted them to another place, not many yards diſtant from the well, and ſhewed them a little nook, or corner, by the ſide of a little running ſtream, which was diſtinguiſhed, or known, by the name of St. Remocles's oven, or bake-houſe, where he cooked his bread, and the beſt part of his diet. Now, gentlemen, this you ſee is nothing more than a caſual cavity, or ſmall hole in the rock, and no effect of the ſaint's extraordinary operation. This oven, however, ſaid the Abbot, and too many other trifles of the like nature,

ture, are looked upon by ſome with the higheſt veneration and eſteem; ſuch is the amazing power of ſuperſtition! In a word, ſo great is its influence, that it will metamorphoſe things of no importance at all into things highly reſpectable, and give a ſanction to ideas that are perfectly ridiculous and romantic! But I am fully perſuaded, that there is no gentleman or lady here preſent doubts, but that all true ſons of the church, and men of ſenſe and penetration, look down with an eye of contempt on all ſuch frivolous and empty notions.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

On the Diverſity of the Beau Monde, who reſort to the Spa; *the different Motives that induce People to frequent thoſe Wells. On the Virtues and different Operations of their reſpective Waters. On the Obſtacles, or Impediments, that frequently occur, and prevent their good Succeſs. On the Methods obſerved in regard to Diet. On the Coffee-Houſes, Balls, Aſſemblies, and other Diverſions.*

HAD the Siameſe, who is particularly taken notice of in the Spa Miſcellany publiſhed about thirty years ago, travelled into this country, what judgment would he have formed, and what would he have ſaid, concerning the life that is now led there?—He would, doubtleſs, have looked upon it as an affair impoſſible to be defined; ſo little a reſemblance does it bear to itſelf at two different ſeaſons, and ſo much is it diverſified by the different kinds of company that viſit it every ſummer: all that he would be able to ſay, would in general be this; namely, that the Spa is an antient country, inhabited by a numerous croud of hydropotes, or water-drinkers, where the natives are in perpetual motion, and its viſiters are perſons of all rank and condition, of both ſexes; of ſuch as are actually labouring under ſome un-

happy diſorder of body or mind; or elſe ſuch as ſeem, at leaſt, to take a pride in being thought invalids; and that the whole body of them were in purſuit of one important object, to wit, the reſtoration of their health. Amongſt this multitude of gentlemen and ladies, he would, doubtleſs, obſerve, that ſome were very amiable characters; ſome very ſingular; ſome infirm eccleſiaſtics; others fribbles, or fops; perſons, in ſhort, of all denominations, lounging to and fro, with canes or crutches in their hands, from morning till night, and diverting themſelves after the beſt manner they could. In caſe he took the way of life they lead there into his ſerious conſideration, he could not eaſily conclude, whether they reſided there out of a motive to the recovery of their health, or whether they reſorted thither in purſuit of their pleaſures; ſince ſuch a variety of perſons were there aſſembled together, no doubt, with ſome particular view or another. He could not fail of remarking, that their principal amuſements conſiſted in gaming, balls, aſſemblies, concerts, plays, walks, a freedom uncontrouled; grand entertainments at noon, and other gallantries, but no ſuppers; and that this abſtinence from luxury in the evening was principally to enhance, or give a double reliſh to the indulgences of the day, which, as it commenced, according to cuſtom, ſo very early in the morning, could not, without an apparent fatigue, be lengthened out, as in other places, and kept up, or continued, till twelve at night.

I ſhall

I ſhall drop here my Boblinique or water-drinking party, in order to attend my Siameſe. This alteration is very commodious, and ſuits me to all intents and purpoſes: and I have hinted long ago to my good-natured readers, that I propoſed to be perfectly free, and under no reſtraint. There is nothing that admits of liberty with ſo good a grace, nothing that indulges a variety in ſo agreeable a manner, as a work of amuſement. The different ideas contained in it cannot fail of contributing in a great meaſure to its wiſhed-for ſucceſs.

Our Siameſe, thus arrived at the Spa, as if fallen from the clouds, and altogether a ſtranger to the uſe of its mineral waters, and not being able to account for that ſudden noiſe and buſtle which wakes him out of his ſleep at five in the morning, jumps out of bed, and dreſſes himſelf in diſhabille, as plainly perceiving that the whole town is up before him: he diſcovers, at a diſtance, a vaſt concourſe of people, all in motion; he cannot conceive the meaning of ſuch a popular tumult, as he imagines, ſo early in the morning. He diſcerns every body walking backwards and forwards, and all returning, after a few tours, towards one common center, where he finds a ſmall and very ſimple ſtructure, in the form of a niche, or chapel, in which is reſident, as he imagines, the deity of the place; where each approaches to pay him the tribute of his adoration. He advances with a kind of awe and reverence, and, to his no ſmall ſurpriſe, finds they go thither with no other apparent

view than to gratify their palates with ſome agreeable potation. From their air of hurry, and eagerneſs to be firſt ſerved, when they are at the well; and from that gaiety and chearfulneſs with which they move off as ſoon as ſerved, he naturally concludes, that the liquor muſt be moſt exquiſitely delicious, muſt have ſome divine virtues to recommend it, ſince they ſeem in an inſtant, as it were, all miraculouſly refreſhed. He draws nearer and nearer, gets the beſt information he can procure, and makes his private remarks; but how aſtoniſhed is he, when he comes to be convinced, that this celeſtial liquor is nothing but water, which they fly to with ſo much pleaſure, and ſo much haſte! and that good-humour and complaiſance conſtantly accompany it; being grounded on a full perſuaſion, that the virtues of the waters carry with them a kind of inſpiration. Every one ſeems fond of proclaiming the almoſt miracles which thoſe waters perform. He cannot, however, tell how to believe their report, till at laſt he is fully convinced, by ſome ſucceſsful cures, of their wonderful operations and innate virtues. However, before he can be perfectly ſatisfied, he puſhes the point, and ſtill makes farther reſearches; he examines into the ſtate and condition of the ſeveral viſiters of the place, and the motives that induced them to flock to it; he makes his obſervations on the particular manner in which they lead their lives; he diſtinguiſhes prudentially between the good and the bad, after all his utmoſt efforts from what he

he has ſeen, and ſets a valuation upon them according to the beſt of his judgment. Let us now weigh all matters thoroughly, and ſee the reſult of the juſt remarks of ſuch an impartial obſerver.

He will at once plainly diſcover, that each viſiter, male or female, affects to be more or leſs indiſpoſed; and amongſt them, there are ſome who, in reality, are counterfeits. And farther, amongſt thoſe who actually labour under ſome diſorder, he will diſcover that the much greater part of them are not ſo bad as they imagine themſelves to be.

He will again diſcern others, who affect, with all the gravity imaginable, to be violently diſordered, when, at the ſame time, their maladies are but commencing, or growing upon them, which yet they ſlight, or totally diſregard. Theſe neglect the neceſſary preventing medicines, till thoſe growing ailments abſolutely deſtroy their health, by the dint of uſeleſs preſcriptions.

He will find there a number of hypochondriacal viſiters, perſons deſtroyed with the ſpleen and vapours; ſome of them actually touched with real obſtructions, and a weakneſs, or relaxation, in their nerves, and with a legend of diſorders conſequent thereupon. He will diſcover others again, whom he will imagine only to be a little diſordered in their pericraniums, and will think they are affected by no other complaints than thoſe which a depreſſed imagination recovers, or recalls, immediately. He will ſometimes form a

judgment on caſes too lightly, or without due conſideration; he will ſee at once, in the twinkling of an eye, that ſome of the invalids are only artificially ſick, in order to have the ſecret pleaſure of the compliments of condolence from their brother complainants, or becauſe it is all the faſhion, and in high taſte, to be an invalid; for it is perfectly vulgar, and too much like a mechanic, to have no one infirmity to complain of. In ſhort, how many are there, who ſeem ſo over fond of being out of order, that rather than be thought unpolite, would fee their phyſician for his advice in maladies with which, in reality, they are no ways affected; who are no otherwiſe ſick, than in their own imaginations; who, when aſked, can give no account of their diſorder, nor tell in what part it lies; who feel, however, all about them the moſt excruciating pains; whoſe trivial indiſpoſitions, if any, increaſe daily, and in reality multiply, through the dint of their capricious humours, and their too delicate ſenſe of pain; whoſe voluntary inquietudes become real; who faint away, and are every minute at death's door, though forever indulging themſelves in the moſt dainty viands, and the richeſt wines? Now, if we will but ſeriouſly reflect on ſo many ſingular ſcenes of the nature above mentioned, how can we conclude any otherwiſe than that our Siameſe was ſometimes in the right? And ought not this reflection moderate, in ſome meaſure, our gloomy ideas and panic fears, which are the greateſt obſtructions

ſtructions imaginable to the wiſh'd-for cure of any real diſtemper?

Morever, he cannot well fail of obſerving, that great numbers of thoſe gentlemen and ladies who are conſtant drinkers of the Spa waters, are either perſons far gone in the ſpleen, or the vapours; or troubled with ſuch obſtructions, or obturations of their veſſels, as prevent the circulation of the fluids; or with a violent and involuntary contraction of their nerves; with thick and groſs humours; or with ſome fibrous weakneſs; with too great a quantity of bilious humours; or with a kind of nervous diſorder, a diſorder that includes a very ill ſtate of the body, and is more or leſs diverſified, as the ſolids or fluids are affected.

This malady, or ill ſtate of the body, is the general complaint at the Spa, as it is the forerunner of divers other diſorders. All, or the generality, at leaſt, of thoſe who drink the waters, labour under ſome real infirmity or other; but being tired, and drove to deſpair by the long continuance of a malady that no medicine will remove, or which is exaſperated by injudicious preſcriptions; and habituated moreover to ſtudy their reſpective diſorders, and to obſerve every circumſtance relative thereto, they are ſtartled at the very gentleſt touches, which make them prodidigiouſly magnify every object, and multiply their diſorders: on the leaſt vibration of an artery, or nervous fibre, more than ordinary, which they might caſually feel, by different means, or by

very ſlight and even natural occaſions, they are immediately alarmed, and imagine themſelves to be in a very dangerous ſtate and condition; of mole-hills they make mountains, and of a trivial and light indiſpoſition they entertain dreadful apprehenſions; the leaſt impreſſions terrify them, and turn a flux of humours from one part to another, which often prove of worſe conſequence than the malady itſelf.

Our Siameſe is not in the leaſt appriſed of thoſe numberleſs diſorders which the delicacy and politeneſs of us Europeans render ſo common: he doubts not, in the leaſt, but that all of them are extremely indiſpoſed. He plainly perceives, that ſuch as are troubled with the ſpleen, or the vapours, imagine, on their firſt arrival at the Spa, that they are landed at the port of health; and they are extremely prejudiced and prepoſſeſſed in favour of her water. Notwithſtanding they have tried ſuch a number of medicines, and all have proved unſucceſsful, they are not diſcouraged, but put their whole faith and confidence in the ſalutary virtue of thoſe mineral waters; and are firmly convinced in their own minds, that their miraculous influence and innate effects, ſo highly applauded all over the univerſe, muſt be the only infallible remedy that can poſſibly reſtore them to their priſtine ſtate of health. In this faith they ſtand ſtedfaſt, perhaps, for a few days; but when they have been in company for ſome time with thoſe who are equally indiſpoſed with themſelves, and perceive no manner of alteration or amendment,

amendment, the cuſtomary complaints will follow, and they will live in abſolute deſpair. One part of theſe invalids, after three or four days of rainy and inclement weather, grow out of temper, and blame themſelves for flying from their own warm and ſerene country, which would have reſtored their loſt health, and made them happy; but no ſooner are they come to a reſolution to return home, but they begin to deſpair once more of their native climate, from whence they were ſo deſirous of removing for the benefit of thoſe mineral waters. Others again are diſcouraged, unleſs they find themſelves perfectly recovered, in a week or ten days, of ſuch a complication of diſorders, though they have conſulted with phyſicians, and took their medicines for years ſucceſſively, to no manner of purpoſe. There are others again who frequent theſe waters, who accoſt the phyſician with all the earneſtneſs imaginable, and at once lay their thorough confidence in the waters to his charge; nay, they carry the point ſtiil farther; they begin to entertain a very indifferent idea of the man, and ſeem to ſuſpect his judgment and ſkill in the art he profeſſes; but ſoon after this expoſtulation, they grow cool, retract thoſe prejudices they had imbibed, and entertain ſome hopes of a reſtoration of their health by the uſe of the proper means. At laſt, however, diſcontented with their phyſician, as they had been with the many they had ſucceſſively conſulted before, they either call in another to his aſſiſtance, or actually ſubſtitute one in his ſtead, and perhaps the

firſt that falls in their way; or one warmly recommended to them by perſons who are more prejudiced in his favour than acquainted with his abilities; and more eſpecially one who has the art, or ſkill, of impoſing on his patients with a good grace; who can flatter them in the hopes they have conceived, by confirming them in their deliriums, or imaginary notions; and by preſcribing ſuch medicines as will beſt ſuit their taſte; the moſt ready meaſures, doubtleſs, to procure their confidence and regard on the one hand, and to render their diſorders incurable on the other. The honeſt and undeſigning phyſician, however, will deal ſincerely with ſuch as are tormented with the ſpleen or vapours, eſpecially when they find one part of their malady purely the reſult of imagination; and even with ſuch as are conceited and prepoſſeſſed with ſome ſuperficial knowledge of the art of phyſic, and pretend to act in conformity with their phyſicians advice: he will repreſent to them the very reverſe of what they imagine, either with reſpect to the malady they labour under, or the meaſures taken for its cure. If he thwarts, or contradicts them very much, he anticipates, and withſtands them more and more in their ſentiments: if they give themſelves the trouble to diſpute or argue the point with him, he tells them, that they feel the weight of their diſorder to be heavier than he imagines; that they feel ſuch and ſuch an incumbrance; namely, agonizing pains, the pangs of death, palpitations, and the moſt ſhocking ſtimulations; in a moment afterwards, ſuch va-

pours

pours as affect the brain; then again a tremulous motion or vibration of the fluids, which fly all over the body from head to foot; and again, in a minute after that, all the moſt ſhocking ailments that can be conceived; and yet the greateſt part of all theſe terrible diſtreſſes are, if duely conſidered, nothing more than trivial diſorders. Say what you pleaſe; treat them as fanciful patients; tell them, that they aggrandize their troubles; that they depend only on ſlight cauſes; that they are more frightful than dangerous; that they muſt exerciſe their patience and fortitude, and ſtruggle with them till ſome proper ſalutary medicine can be applied; they will only be ſo much the more incenſed againſt the perſon that deals thus ingenuouſly with them; they reject his advice with contempt, and entruſt themſelves unhappily to the care and conduct of ſome illiterate quack, or empiric, who by flattering their palate, and a perpetual change of medicines, and pretended ſpecifics, will enervate the body, weaken the organs, and at length render the patients malady abſolutely incurable. What has been ſaid is doubtleſs juſt matter for reflection!—If the picture be ſomewhat extravagant, or drawn beyond the mark, the prejudices and prepoſſeſſions are no leſs real, and too often prove fatal. Our Siameſe, however, is too acute and quick-ſighted; he is ſometimes outrageous, hot and cauſtic: in his country they proceed more ingenuouſly and ſincerely: he is ſtartled at that nice perception and delicacy which he obſerves

obſerves at the Spa. Let us wave all that he could have to ſay on this occaſion, and let us lend an attentive ear to his other obſervations.

Amongſt the numerous perſons who reſort to the wells, he ſees ſo many diſorders, and one ſo very different from another, that he can't poſſibly conceive that one and the ſame remedy, or preſcription, ſhould be able to cure them all; or that, if it proved ſucceſsful in one caſe, it muſt inevitably miſcarry in another: ſome, on the one hand, drink the mineral waters for the weakneſs, relaxation, or want of due motion of the fibres, and for ſuch other maladies as are dependent thereupon; others again, for the too great contraction, or vibratility, of them; or for their exceſs of action, their too frequent, too ſtrong, too irregular, and convulſive motions, &c. They have recourſe to thoſe waters in the caſes of thickneſs, as well as the diſſolution of humours; in immoderate fluxes, as well as ſuppreſſions of the fluids; in all the irregular motions of the ſolids, as well as the liquids; in almoſt all acrimonious caſes; in ulcers; in the diſſolution of the ſtone, or the deſtruction of the worms; in a word, in all chronic diſtempers, which proceed either from heat or cold, from ſtiffneſs or ſoftneſs, from tenſion or relaxation, from thickneſs or tenuity, from increaſe or decreaſe, from exceſs or defect: there is ſcarce any of the above-mentioned diſorders but what may be removed, and, in proceſs of time, the patient be perfectly reſtored to his former ſtate of health,

through

through the innate virtues, and miraculous operations, of thoſe mineral waters; and ſuch are their extraordinary qualities, that they may juſtly be termed a panacea, that is to ſay, an univerſal medicine, or remedy for all diſeaſes. Our impartial obſerver will charge them at once, for theſe reaſons, as chimerical remedies only, or, at leaſt, in regard to the greater number of maladies, for the cure whereof thoſe waters are daily drank.

As our Siameſe, however, is docile and tractable, and has his rational faculties about him, and incapable of being biaſſed by any prejudice or prepoſſeſſion, however well grounded it may ſeem to all outward appearance, he is by no means obſtinate or incapable of conviction in point of that opinion he has conceived againſt the ſo much-boaſted influence and effect of thoſe wonderful waters; he is deſirous of being informed as to the poſſibility and reality of facts. He is ſoon, therefore, made ſenſible, that the cure of certain maladies, although diametrically oppoſite, at leaſt to all appearance, may be performed by the adminiſtration of one and the ſame medicine or preſcriptions. He will ſoon comprehend, that ſuch maladies, whoſe effects are directly contrary, frequently depend upon a ſimilar cauſe, in a great meaſure, or in regard to the moſt eſſential part: as for inſtance, if the weakneſs of the fibres is a natural cauſe of their inaction; if from the weakneſs of the ſtomach the digeſtions are ſlow or ſluggiſh; if from the weakneſs of the veſſels the humours

humours ſtagnate, or ceaſe to flow, or, at leaſt, do not circulate ſo freely as they ought, or ſo as that the play of the fibres muſt be weak in proportion to the weakneſs of the reſſorts whereon their action depends; on the other hand, that very weakneſs of the fibres renders them more active, more angry, more liable to emotions, or ſuch as are convulſive, as ſoon as any acrimonious, or other cauſe, acts upon the ſenſible fibres. Our Siameſe then conceives very eaſily how the weakneſs of the fibres is the cauſe of oppoſite maladies; of the inaction, or the irregular motions; of the languor, or exaſperation; of the ſtagnation, or the ſuperabundant ſecretion; all oppoſite effects; and whereof, notwithſtanding the principal and eſſential cauſe is equally the weakneſs and relaxation of the fibres, he has nothing more to do than to fortify, or new-brace them, in ſuch a manner as they either naturally ought to be, or to favour the flow of the animal ſpirits, ſo as to re-eſtabliſh or recover their action; prevent or hinder their ſtagnation, corruption, and every thing elſe thereon depending; or to enable them to ſupport ſome caſual exaſperations, and render them not ſo ſuſceptible, or ſubject to ſhocks, revolutions, and ſpaſmodic, or convulſive motions. Our Siameſe is convinced that theſe reaſons are juſt and ſelf-evident.

As to the effects of our mineral waters, he eſtimated them from the large quantities that were drank; from caſes that appeared oppoſite, as in divers diſorders of ſuch as had weak ſtomachs,

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in fainting fits, in all ſuch maladies where the complaint lay in the weakneſs or relaxation of the nerves, or fibres, which are the organs of ſenſation or motion; the paralyſis, or palſy; tremors; ſpaſmodic, or convulſive motions, either in their firſt ſymptoms, as in reachings, eructations, hiccoughs; or in different parts of the body, as in vapours, palpitations, cramps, or ſuch other caſes where there are exaſperations of the nervous kind when weakened. Our Siameſe can with equal eaſe conceive how theſe mineral waters ſooth, or heal, the diſorders above mentioned, or divers others, the principal cauſe whereof conſiſts in a defect of the fluids, either ſimply, or relatively to the ſolids; whether it be in diluting, diſſolving, or carrying off from the body the acrimonious matters, or in attenuating, or waſting, thoſe humours that were too thick or ſolid. Now moſt chronic diſtempers have relation to one of the three following cauſes, namely, weakneſs, acrimony, and obſtruction: from the firſt of them reſults either inaction, or irritation; from inaction proceeds extravaſation, remiſſneſs, or ſtagnation of the humours, from whence follow their corruption, or thickneſs, &c. from the irritation ariſe ſpaſmodic, or convulſive motions, extenſions, or ſwellings, ſhootings, pains, revolutions of the humours, &c. through divers light cauſes, either natural or accidental: from the acrimonious cauſes proceed exaſperations, want of nutrition, ſuch maladies, or diſorders, as are dependent on the depravation of the humours,

diſſolution, cachexy, ſcurvy, and the like: from the obſtructions, or laſt cauſe, proceed pains, or diſorders, in the bowels; the ſpleen, the vapours, melancholy, jaundice, &c. Theſe three malignant maladies, weakneſs, acrimony, and obſtructions, are frequently complicated, and reciprocal, and one is often the conſequence of the other. Now theſe three cauſes create an infinite number of diſeaſes, wherein 'tis no ſuch miraculous thing that theſe mineral waters ſhould prove ſo efficacious and ſucceſsful. In order to their performing ſo many ſurpriſing cures, it is ſufficient, that they have a natural tendency to fortify, correct, or evacuate the acrimonious matters, and that they diſſipate, or diſſolve, ſuch as are ſolid. To fortify, ſoften, and remove, or open, obſtructions, are three ſuch qualities, or virtues, as are ſufficient to be acknowledged as innate in thoſe waters, for the explication of their effects, which are ſeemingly perfect paradoxes, when we form a judgment of divers diſeaſes only by their different, and frequently oppoſite, effects to thoſe three malignant cauſes above mentioned. When matters are reduced to this ſtate of ſimplicity, they are obvious to the weakeſt capacity, and, conſequently, carry in them nothing that is either intricate or abſtruſe.

The number of the ſprings at the Spa gives that place the advantage over all others of the ſame nature; for that circumſtance affords ample room for making a very important choice of thoſe which are moſt ſuitable, and proper, for the peculiar

peculiar ailment, or infirmity, that the ſeveral patients labour under.

If theſe waters, however, have the real property, or power, of curing ſuch a number of diſorders, wherein ordinary remedies, or medicines, have little or no effect; if our Siameſe obſerves the various cures which they actually perform, he will obſerve likewiſe, at the ſame time, that a very conſiderable part of thoſe gentlemen and ladies, who drink the waters, have no great room for being laviſh in the praiſe of their effects; neither will he find it any great difficulty to aſſign a very ſubſtantial reaſon. He will immediately obſerve, that the majority of the water-drinkers fail only in the end propoſed, by their irregular uſe of them; that others loſe the benefit of them, becauſe they will be as free, and as inquiſitive into the manner of the removal of their diſorders, as they had been in the methods they took to deſerve them: others again loſe their aim in drinking them, by following the whimſical inſtructions of their phyſicians, who are more converſant in all other points of their profeſſion, than in the virtues of the waters; or becauſe they deſpair of ſucceſs in the uſe of any other means, they viſit the wells with an indulgent view of ſaving the credit and reputation of their phyſicians, or are affected with ſuch ailments as the waters are improper for their cure: and out of the vaſt number of viſiters that reſort to the Spa, there are but few who reap all the advantages they might from them, becauſe very

few

few will comply with, or obſerve ſuch regimen, or follow ſuch directions, as they ought.

Our Siameſe, moreover, will farther obſerve, that the object of health is not the only, or principal, motive that attracts ſuch a ſplendid aſſembly of both ſexes at the Spa. He will plainly diſcover, that great numbers reſort thither for the ſake of gaming high, and by their dexterity and addreſs in every mode of play bid fair to amend or improve their broken fortunes; that a croud of another ſort attend there only as paraſites, and dependents on ſuch illuſtrious perſonages as keep public tables, and make a ſplendid appearance. He will ſee likewiſe, that others come there to make the beſt market they can of the commodities they import; that ſome aim at procuring new acquaintances and correſpondents; and that others reſort thither purely to enjoy themſelves, and the wholeſome air of that climate: that ſome again have diverſion and amuſement principally in their view, and ſpend their time there more for the ſake of the good and grand company that reſort thither, than out of any regard to the virtues of the waters. In a word, this moſt delightful ſpot is the centre, or ſeat, of all joy and pleaſure; which contribute towards the countleſs miracles that are wrought there beyond the power of words to expreſs.

He who takes into his conſideration only the numberleſs amuſements of this delicious ſpot, the various games, the balls, the plays, the walks, and other entertainments that are carried on there,

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and ſucceed each other without intermiſſion, muſt, doubtleſs, imagine, that a life ſo led, in the daily gratification of every ſenſe, is able to remove a variety of little inconveniencies without the leaſt aid, or aſſiſtance, from thoſe ſalutary ſprings; ſuch, for inſtance, as the yellow-jaundice, which is principally owing to ſome light and trivial obſtructions; the hyp, or vapours, which are often the reſult only of an unpolite deportment, from a too peeviſh and moroſe huſband, and more particularly that petty diſorder called the green-ſickneſs, a maiden diſtemper, for the immediate cure of which the young lover is the infallible phyſician; which is naturally enough drawn up in the following ſtanza, extracted from a French ſonnet; the import whereof, in familiar proſe, is this:

"The lovely ſhepherdeſs for whom I weep,
"but weep in vain, lies dead, alas! of the
"green-ſickneſs, in the bloom of fifteen.—Poor
"girl! thy loſs I muſt forever mourn, who
"lieſt breathleſs here, of a diſeaſe, for the
"inſtant cure whereof there were a hundred
"phyſicians ready at hand."

In rural ſong it will ſtand thus:

"Sylvia, the lovelieſt nymph that ever liv'd,
"By the green-ſickneſs is of life bereav'd:
"Who could have thought the flow'r of all the grove
"Should fade ſo ſoon, ſo ſoon ſhould die for love?
"Forever Damon muſt the loſs deplore,
"Though always ready to preſcribe the cure."

Conform-

Conformable to the idea above mentioned, our Siameſe concludes his reflections on the peculiar virtues of the various ſprings. He takes notice of every uſe that is made of them, with reſpect to the pleaſures they afford, and to the various motives conducive thereunto. He has taken a ſurvey, in the firſt place, of all the beau monde at the Spa, who principally make a grand appearance at the fountain of Pouhon. From thence he follows them to all the various ſprings that lie at ſome ſmall diſtance from the town. As theſe laſt are ſituate on different mountains, and as the roads leading to them are in ſome meaſure rugged and unpleaſant, notwithſtanding all the pains and expence which the inhabitants have been at lately, and ſtill continue every ſeaſon to be at, in repairing and rendering them as level and agreeable to their viſiters as poſſibly they can, yet few reſort thither but ſuch as either hire horſes, or take places in the ſeveral machines which ply daily for that purpoſe, leſt they ſhould prove over-fatigued with the walk, and run the hazard of catching colds, through the drinking of the waters whilſt they are too hot; notwithſtanding their ſituations are at no great diſtance from the Spa, which in any other country, leſs wild and deſart, would be but an eaſy walk.

There are horſes and machines to be let, either for the morning only, or for the whole day, as occaſion may require. The price of a horſe to

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go to either of the diſtant wells is from fifteen to twenty ſous *, according as the call for them be greater or leſs; but if you hire a horſe for the whole day, as is cuſtomary enough with ſuch gentlemen or ladies as are deſirous of taking an airing after dinner, you muſt pay three eſcalins † for each horſe. The uſual price for a machine, or vehicle, that will commodiouſly hold three perſons, in order to go to either of the diſtant fountains in the morning only, is three eſcalins. Theſe vehicles are, for the generality, little light chaiſes, or calaſhes, without either doors or ſaſhes, with leather or calico curtains only, both before, and on each ſide. Theſe carriages go but a very ſlow pace, which are drawn only, for the moſt part, by one horſe, led by the driver, who walks on foot, and by that means is better enabled to avoid the moſt rugged places. As theſe carriages are but badly hung, they are not over eaſy, and are liable every now and then to an unwelcome ſhock, or jolt, but are ſafe enough in all reſpects, for you ſhall very ſeldom hear of any one of them being over-ſet. There are at this juncture likewiſe three hackney chariots, or coaches, for thoſe who chuſe them: and ſince the roads have been of late years ſo carefully repaired, there are ſome gentlemen and ladies

* A ſous, value about one penny.

† At Bruſſels the eſcalin goes for ſeven pence only; at Liege, and at Spa, for ten pence.

ladies who chuſe to ride their own horſes, or truſt to their own coachmen.

Moſt gentlemen and ladies, however, chuſe to go on horſeback, when the weather is calm and ſerene; and ſometimes they will go on foot, by way of a walk, when the ſun is not overhot; for 'tis eaſy enough, from thoſe fountains back to the Spa, as the walk is one continued gradual deſcent. As to our Siameſe, he made choice of this laſt method of travelling for the moſt part.

Beſides the agreeable amuſements of the company, and the walks in the environs of the Spa, or the adjacent places, he was charmed with the other various diverſions which he frequently met with at the more diſtant wells, called the Sauveniere and the Geronſtere ſprings. One in particular, which gave him the moſt tranſporting pleaſure, was the concert, which was frequently held there. This is an amuſement that has given great delight to perſons of all ages, at all places, and at all ſeaſons. The goddeſſes of pleaſure are no where more charming than in the country, where Nature diſplays a profuſion of beauties in her verdant foreſts, and flowery meadows; and 'tis highly probable, that ſuch bands of vocal and inſtrumental muſic, with the agreeable addition of ſuch rural charms, can in no place be more neceſſary, or advantageous, than at the Spa; as ſuch harmony contributes greatly towards a free paſſage of the waters, and their operation with the deſired ſucceſs; becauſe the ſpirits being

ing put into motion, and moſt agreeably touched by the various ſounds of ſo many inſtruments, the ſenſible fibres become more pliant, and the ſeveral organs better adapted to the free exerciſe of their different functions. This was the judgment which our Siameſe formed of that impreſſion which was made upon his mind in thoſe rural places, and the various ſtories which he had heard atteſted for truth of the power of muſic on ſuch perſons as have been unhappily ſtung by tarantulas, or the moſt poiſonous ſpecies of all ſpiders. Beſides, how often do we find, that the charms of muſic are aiding and aſſiſting in the reduction of the blood, when too thick, to a more current fluency; and in the diſſipation of the moſt dejected thoughts, and gloomy ideas? Every one knows, that there are but very few perſons who are inſenſible of its magic power; and that no better medicine whatſoever can poſſibly be preſcribed for the cure of the vapours.

The vaſt concourſe of people that viſit the Spa attract thither, every ſeaſon, a ſet of juglers, tumblers, and others, who are capable of performing ſuch dextrous tricks, as ſtrike the eye of the curious ſpectator; and frequently theſe ſtrollers divert the company at the wells. There was a lad one day at the Geronſtere ſpring, who, after he had climbed up to the higheſt branch of a tree that would bear him, imitated there a concert of all ſorts of ſinging-birds; and afterwards acted the part of a ſingle nightingale,

nightingale, ſo naturally, that he always attracted divers of that particular ſpecies in the adjacent trees to keep him company, and join their melody to his; and ſo artful was the lad, that the niceſt ear could not diſtinguiſh the harmonious operation of the one from the other. He afterwards mimicked the neighing of horſes, the barkings of dogs, and the different cries or howls of other animals, ſo very naturally, that he would frequently ſtartle part of the company that were not appriſed of his operations. In ſhort, the lad was admired by every body for his innocent and ingenious performances. There is another uncommon operator who attends every ſeaſon, not only at the Spa, but all the wells in its environs; namely, a young, briſk fellow, who was born without arms, and performs all ſorts of exerciſes with his feet, as dextrouſly as others with their hands. He makes a pen; writes with ſurpriſing freedom and eaſe; ſtrikes, with a ſtick, a blow with amazing ſtrength; after which he lays the ſtick upon his left ſhoulder, and then ſupports it with his chin; and holds it ſo faſt, that a ſtrong man would find it a difficult taſk to wreſt it from him. He takes up a glaſs with one foot, and a bottle with the other; then pours out a bumper, and drinks the company's good health; then cuts himſelf a ſlice of bread, and ſpreads it with butter; he charges and diſcharges a piſtol; ſhuffles and cuts a pack of cards; digs a ſpot of ground with a ſpade, which he lays on his ſhoulder, and works it with his foot;

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he cards and ſpins wool, and performs many other extraordinary tricks too numerous to mention. It is very remarkable alſo that this perſon is eſteemed an excellent ſchool-maſter, and the only one in the village wherein he reſides. When he had gone through all his uſual exerciſes at the fountain of Geronſtere, before a numerous croud of ſpectators, amongſt whom our Siameſe was one, abundance of the gentry, highly delighted with the novelty of their entertainment, and ſurpriſed at the accompliſhments of one to whom nature was ſeemingly ſo unkind at his birth, gave him ſeveral tokens of their benevolence and approbation, and aſked him all the queſtions they could think of for the further gratification of their curioſity; and he aſſured them, that he was perfectly happy, and contented with the diſpenſations of providence, and in the ſituation of his circumſtances; that he was never dejected, or caſt down; and what was ſtill a farther article of no ſmall moment, that he did not deſpair of being happy in a wife. His uſual place of reſidence is a little village, called Tiege, near Sart, about three fourths of a league from the Spa, where he was born in the year 1728. They aſked him moreover, by what unhappy caſualty he became ſo unfortunate at his birth: he aſſured them, that no one ever ſurmiſed any known cauſe, as he had heard of. They ſeemed aſtoniſhed, as it were, that his mother had neither ſeen, nor, at leaſt, in ſome frightful dream, imagined that ſhe ſaw ſome creature, man or beaſt, ſo unhappily diſmembered, that had made too deep an im-

preſſion on her mind: the fact was, however, as we have related it; and we find by experience, that ſome remarkable phænomena make their appearance, at different times, though but ſeldom indeed, without the aid or aſſiſtance of ſuch accidents, or viſionary fancies, as enable us to give ſolid reaſons for ſuch uncommon and extraordinary events.

Thus, curioſities of various kinds, which offer themſelves to public view at the ſeveral wells belonging to the Spa, ſerve to diverſify the amuſements of the place; though it muſt be acknowledged, that, abſtracted from all ſuch caſual ſpectacles, time there ſeems ever upon the wing, through the pleaſures that naturally ariſe from a variety of the beſt company, and the charming walks that are at any time to be enjoyed within the environs of the Spa. And as every body there acts and talks with the utmoſt freedom and familiarity, our Siameſe, who is a man of art and addreſs, ſoon got into a large acquaintance: ſometimes he would breakfaſt with a ſelect company at their private apartments; ſometimes again at a public inn, where there are ſeveral little ſocieties that meet for that purpoſe; though ſometimes they are more numerous than ordinary; and in which mirth and gaiety are countenanced without the leaſt reſerve; and theſe little public aſſemblies are inſtituted with no other view than to promote mutual friendſhip and agreeable converſation. There the company are ſupplied in a morning, either with chocolate, Spaniſh wines, coffee, or milk; with plenty of biſcuits,

cuits, and little rolls and butter. Every one is ſerved with what ſuits his fancy: that choice however, is, for the moſt part, directed by their taſte, without the leaſt regard to the rules or principles of health. Sometimes our Siameſe would ſtroll into the coffee-houſe, and there drink a diſh of chocolate, and read the news by way of amuſement. This public coffee-houſe is ſituate in the centre of the town, and within a few doors of the noted inn, called *The Court of London*. There they keep two fine, large billiard-rooms, which are ſeldom empty. There likewiſe, one part of the company are engaged at back-gammon; another at draughts, or at cheſs; and a third, which are more numerous, at pharo, which is there a favourite diverſion. At this gaming-table ſome will ſtake crowns, and others again no leſs than louis-d'ors. This place is daily frequented by profeſſed gameſters, or by ſuch as game very high, and whoſe fortune in life depends principally on their good or ill ſucceſs, be the kind of play what it will: ſome come there, and game a little for diverſion only, and others who are tempted by a love and natural inclination to improve their ſtock. This pleaſure, or amuſement, becomes too violent in proportion to the extravagance in which it is purſued. Such, and ſo vaſt, is the difference between gaming for paſtime and playing out of an inſatiate thirſt after ſordid gain. Others again, tempted by the bewitching allurements of play, are drawn into the ſnare either through curioſity, or an itching ambition

to try their fortunes; and, by degrees, engage boldly, and ſeldom fail of meeting with heavy loſſes. Such as are curious always make their remarks on the different humours that are viſible in ſuch a mixed aſſembly; the unconcerned, or indifferent airs of the bankers; amongſt the punters at baſſet, the ſame airs of ſuch as play with moderation, and make gaming nothing more than a mere paſtime or amuſement: the number of theſe, however, are, comparatively ſpeaking, but very few. The curious, moreover, obſerve ſome of thoſe who game extravagantly high, to look pale, dejected, incenſed to the laſt degree, and, in an agony of deſpair, ready to devour their cards; whilſt, for the moſt part, the artful and experienced gameſters, who make a trade of their play, ſome of them actual parties concerned in the bank, but thro' artifice ſeem punters only, ſeldom fail of ſqueezing ſuch novices, or dupes, whom gaming, by accident as it were, draws into exceſs, makes them perfectly uneaſy, and if real invalids gives a new turn to their blood, and, by ſuch raſh proceedings, they loſe, with their money, the good effects of the waters.

From the coffee-houſe the company generally adjourn to dinner. The keen appetite, which the drinking of the waters naturally creates, is, as it were, univerſal, and every one ſeems to be abſolutely impatient, if the uſual hour be but for a few minutes poſtponed. The firſt fifteen minutes, after the company are ſeated, are ſcarce ſufficient

ſufficient to anſwer the cravings of their reſpective appetites; each ſeems wholly intent on what lies before him; and all of them ſeem to eat in ſilence; there is not a word to be heard, till the edge of their appetite is taken off; then converſation begins to revive, and each one endeavours to contribute his ſhare, with all the freedom imaginable, to which the waters ſeem at leaſt to give a ſanction.

Our Siameſe, perfectly aſtoniſhed to ſee ſuch a profuſion of eatables, and ſuch a number of different diſhes ſet upon table for the ſervice of a ſet of invalids, that are under a courſe of phyſic for the reſtoration of their health, was at a loſs to comprehend the ſingular and agreeable manner that they purſued in order to attain the cure propoſed. He could not forbear ſtarting his objections to a regimen ſo looſe and unbounded: whereupon a formal conference aroſe, and the topic was handled and determined different ways by different parties. Some cenſured the cooks and the inn-keepers, for bringing ſuch a number of diſhes upon table as were perfectly unwholeſome, and more eſpecially ſuch as the conſtitutions of the company could not well bear; ſuch, for inſtance, as your haut-gouts, high-ſeaſoned paſties, coleworts, and divers other roots, which were hard of digeſtion: others maintained, that if ſuch proviſions were altogether inconſiſtent with drinking the waters, either the magiſtrates of the Spa, or the phyſicians thereto belonging, ſhould ſettle and adjuſt a concern of ſuch

general importance. Others again obſerved, that the majority of the company viſited the place with no other view than to meet with polite converſation, and enjoy the other amuſements peculiar to its happy ſituation; and that as ſuch were not to be looked upon as real invalids, there was no reaſon for ſuch viſiters to be under any reſtraint or regulation: in ſhort, the company were divided in their ſentiments, and there were ſtrong parties on both ſides of the point in debate. Our Siameſe, however, plainly perceiving, that even the real invalids were apt to indulge themſelves too far, and to treſpaſs in reſpect of ſuch diet as they themſelves acknowledged their phyſicians had cautioned them to avoid, was of opinion, that it was expoſing them to a too alluring temptation, to bring before them ſuch a profuſion of proviſions diametrically repugnant to their health, becauſe ſuch a multiplicity of diſhes is manifeſtly prejudicial, if it were only for one reaſon, namely, that 'twas a too powerful motive, or temptation to them all to eat more than they ought, or nature required; that in ſuch a place as the Spa was, it was the ſtate and condition of the invalids that ought principally to be conſidered; and that ſuch amongſt them, as laboured under no diſorder, ought to live by themſelves, or elſe be conformable to the rules preſcribed to thoſe who were drinkers of the waters. At leaſt, concluded our Siameſe, there ought to be a table of health eſtabliſhed for the peculiar ſervice of the invalids, to which ſhould

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be brought only ſuch diſhes as were wholeſome food, and ſuch, too, dreſt in the plaineſt and moſt ſimple manner: others urged, that were the innkeepers obliged to entertain their cuſtomers in the taſte propoſed, not one in ten of them would ever raiſe a fortune; and 'tis highly probable, that what they urged would prove ſtrictly true: others, however, were of opinion, that great numbers of perſons, who reſorted to the Spa, in reality, for the recovery of their health, and with no other view, ſhould be very deſirous of nothing more than a ſtrict obſervance of ſuch a regimen as might naturally conduce towards the waters meeting with their deſired ſucceſs; but 'tis poſſible, that the greateſt part of thoſe gentlemen, who preach up ſo ſtrenuouſly againſt unwholeſome and ſuperfluous diſhes, would be ſomewhat like thoſe ſqueamiſh ladies, who complain violently of the filthy diſcourſe which Pierrot utters upon the ſtage, and yet are never ſeen to ſmile till Pierrot makes them ample reparation, by entertaining them with the ſecond part of the ſame tune.

The ſentiments of the company were quite otherwiſe divided, when they proceeded to diſcourſe on the cuſtom of mixing mineral water with the wine that they drank at table, and of mixing cool and delicious ſyrups with their waters after dinner. Upon this topic there aroſe a very warm and animated debate, which was handled by ſome of the company, and ſupported, on both ſides the queſtion, with all the arguments that

could poſſibly be deviſed, not forgetting the authority of the phyſicians who have given their opinions on that cuſtom, and, for the moſt part, condemn it.

At firſt, thoſe who cenſured and condemned all ſuch mixtures, offered divers arguments againſt the practice that ſeemed very plauſible; for they inſiſted, that it was a manifeſt contradiction to drink water with their meals, when 'tis pretended to be a ſtanding rule not to breakfaſt or dine till the waters, which have been drank, have had their free and full paſſage, maintaining, that it would be altogether uſeleſs to wait till then, if they were to drink the mineral waters when they were actually at dinner. To this the following reply was made immediately, namely, that it was the cuſtom, or method, obſerved by all the water-drinkers to go to breakfaſt about an hour after they had done drinking, notwithſtanding there are numbers who don't diſcharge their waters till after dinner, and ſometimes not till the evening; and that the hours both for breakfaſt and dinner have all along been ſettled and adjuſted without any the leaſt regard to the paſſage, or non-paſſage of the waters, ſo that the rule above inſiſted upon to be obſerved, is not generally true; for about thirty years ago, the ſtated hour for dinner was eleven o'clock; and at preſent every body goes to breakfaſt within an hour after they have drank the waters, without making any diſtinction between their quick or ſlow paſſage. The rule, therefore, was not preſcribed with

with a view to the giving proper time for the paſſage of the waters; neither was it laid down on account of its being prejudicial, or unwholeſome, to eat till they were paſſed, or that people poſtponed eating for an hour after their drinking the waters, whether they had paſſed or not: but there are other ſubſtantial reaſons for the obſervance of that rule; and that is, becauſe the waters by their quantity, and elaſtic matters, diſengage, ſwell, and force the ſtomach too much; and becauſe 'tis proper that the flatulent matters ſhould have time to ſettle or diſperſe, and for the water to paſs from the ſtomach, or to recover itſelf, either by their elaſtic or muſcular properties, or by the principles, or natural virtues, of the waters themſelves; and in ſuch caſes where the ſwelling would prove painful, or be attended with a too violent exaſperation, it ſhould be relieved before the patient eats his dinner; but ſuch caſes very ſeldom, if ever, occur. That inconvenience can never happen when the patient drinks the mineral waters with his victuals, or with any acid ſyrups; becauſe 'tis leſs flatulent, on account of the quantity of air which it diſengages, or takes off, by means of its tranſportation, or which it diſſipates, or diſperſes, or incorporates, either with the wine, or with the ſyrups, which, when mixed, conſtitute an uniform and regular compound, whereof a much leſs quantity of air is taken off, than from the pure mineral water alone; from whence it may naturally be concluded, that the patient does not run the ſame riſque of any diſ-

tention or ſwelling in the ſtomach by ſuch an intermixture, eſpecially as the quantity of water which he generally drinks at his meals bears no manner of proportion with what he drinks before by way of cure. Thus the firſt objection is obviated. The next that was ſtarted was this, namely, that, foraſmuch as the waters are drank as medicines, it is ridiculous, or at leaſt highly improper, to drink them with our meals; that being in their nature diuretic, 'tis much to be feared leſt they ſhould precipitate, or diſcharge, ſuch food too haſtily by way of urine; as Pigrai, in his treatiſe on theſe mineral waters, has obſerved, that he ſaw a man himſelf who had eaten aniſeed, as is cuſtomary, with his waters, at the Pouhon well, diſcharge one of thoſe ſeeds by urine; which was one reaſon why D'ab Heers, an antient phyſician, in his treatiſe on theſe waters, abſolutely prohibits the intermixture of mineral waters with the wine which his patients drank at their ſtated meals. Upon this authority thus produced, all the company in general ſmiled, and treated the over-curious doctor, and his opinion, with an air of contempt. To this one of his opponents farther added, and very judiciouſly, that were the fact related true, and if the grain ſo voided above mentioned had been, in reality, the effect, or reſult, of that diuretic quality, it muſt, by conſequence, be no leſs inconvenient and improper to eat any ſeeds, or comfits, of any kind whatſoever in the morning with the waters, than to drink the waters with the wine at dinner,

or any other repaſt whatever, and much more ſo to drink them mixed with ſyrups. Another opponent added, moreover, this juſt remark, viz. that there is no aliment, or kind of food, or liquor, whatſoever, which had not ſome medicinal property, as well as a quality of being refreſhing and nutrimental; that wines are warm, comfortable, and ſtrengthening, and have in them both a tonic and diuretic virtue; and ſome meats, on the other hand, are aſtringent, ſome emollient, and others laxative and diuretic, &c. that it required the ſkill and obſervance of an able and experienced phyſician to be capable of forming a right judgment of what food, or what liquors, would beſt ſuit with different conſtitutions; and that ſuch choice was not regulated according to their nutritive quality, but in a great meaſure to their medicinal virtue; that refreſhing and ſtrengthening food was generally preſcribed to ſuch as were of a warm conſtitution; and laxative aliments to thoſe who are coſtive; and to ſuch as are afflicted with any leprous diſorders, that diet which is naturally anti-ſcorbutic, &c. If then, ſaid they, things are thus circumſtanced, what inconvenience could poſſibly ariſe from drinking ſuch waters as were both tonic and diuretic, in caſe of relaxation or obſtructions? What greater misfortune could poſſibly attend that medicinal quality, than the diuretic property that is in all white wines, and the tonic quality ſubſiſting in thoſe which are red, and the other properties of the like kind either in our food or liquors?

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The advocates, however, for the negative, retorted immediately the following reply. How, pray, can the medicinal quality of food be compared with that contained in the water, in which there is a quantity, more or leſs, of a metalline ſubſtance, or of ſteel, which is ſolid, weighty, hard of digeſtion, and abſolutely pernicious, when mixed with that ſoft and light ſubſtance which we ought to make choice of at our ſtated meals? To this the advocates for mixing the waters with their wine directly rejoined, that it was a mere idle and fantaſtic notion to look upon that metalline ſubſtance, inherent in the waters, as hard of digeſtion, and conſequently pernicious with our daily food; for ſuch ſteel, or metalline ſubſtance, is ſo far from being an enemy to, or deſtructive of, the body, or pernicious to it, that ſuch ſteel is (as may be demonſtrated beyond all contradiction) a principle of the blood, as eſſentially, in all reſpects, as the water and other materials whereof it is compoſed. This is a truth that no modern phyſician will now-a-days preſume to contradict, except ſuch as are altogether ignorant of thoſe important diſcoveries which have been lately made, or ſuch as are too unreaſonably attached to their former prejudices. If it be demonſtrable, as doubtleſs it is, that the uſual quantity of blood contained in the body of a man has in it between three and four ounces of ſuch metalline ſubſtance, then that ſteel, ſo far from being accounted hard of digeſtion, and prejudicial to its aliment or ſupport, ſhould be deemed

deemed highly uſeful, not only as a remedy, or medicine, but as a natural principle, that is converted into, or become a part of, our proper ſubſtance.

Say what you pleaſe, replied thoſe who were the ſtrenuous oppoſers of ſuch intermixtures as above mentioned, it muſt certainly be an unwholeſome practice; ſince it evidently appears from what D'ab Heers has aſſured us, from the authority of ſo many Greek, Latin, and Arabic authors, who have particularly treated on the uſe of mineral waters, no one has recommended the mixture of them with other liquids; and moreover, added they, there is an able and experienced phyſician, at this juncture, whoſe judgment and ſkill in the art of phyſic no one ever preſumed to diſpute, who is ſo far from preſcribing ſuch unnatural mixtures, that he adviſes all his patients to refrain from them. That argument, however, which D'ab Heers looked upon as unanſwerable, is, in reality, very weak, if it carries any force with it at all; for the moſt received authorities are worthleſs, and ought to be rejected, unleſs they are ſupported by ſolid and ſubſtantial reaſons. The antients, indeed, might, 'tis highly probable, be altogether ignorant of the uſe and benefit of ſuch intermixtures, or of their incapacity of proving any ways prejudicial; and there are ſome moderns too partially attached to their principles, who may be equally ignorant, in the ſame reſpect, at this preſent conjuncture. This, however, is not the only uſeful diſcovery which the moderns

moderns have made; but in all caſes 'tis far from being a new diſcovery; for this very ſame doctor D'ab Heers, who publiſhed his treatiſe above an hundred and fifty years ago, aſſures us therein, that thoſe phyſicians, who gave their advice at the Spa before his time, gave poſitive orders for mixing the Pouhon waters with Rheniſh wine. The celebrated Boerhaave likewiſe preſcribed the mixture of the ſame mineral waters both with wine and beer. Doctor Preſſeaux, moreover, who is univerſally allowed to have been an able and celebrated phyſician, and thoroughly well acquainted with the innate virtues, or qualities, of theſe mineral waters, conſtantly preſcribed ſuch intermixtures, and met with great ſucceſs. Theſe authorities, we humbly conceive, ought at leaſt to be regarded with equal deference and eſteem with thoſe produced by the oppoſite party. In a word, the cuſtom is now obſerved all over Europe; and moſt of the gentlemen and ladies who viſit the Spa, almoſt every ſeaſon, practiſe this intermixture, without perceiving the leaſt inconvenience reſulting therefrom.

When this long medical conference was over, it was concluded that ſuch intermixtures as above mentioned were truly beneficial, and highly approved of in divers caſes; though not in all, without exception; ſince ſuch intermixtures, it is generally allowed, ought not to be indulged till the patient was well aſſured, that the waters he had drank in the morning were ſatisfactorily paſſed, without cauſing any incommodious tenſion,

ſion, or ſwelling in the ſtomach, or any other diſorder of the like ſymptoms; and that no patient ſhould make a practice of ſuch intermixture, whilſt he perceives any ſuch inconvenience, though it very ſeldom happens.

As our Siameſe takes a peculiar delight in variety, and, moreover, is very ready and willing to conform himſelf to the taſte of every company, he happens to come into; ſometimes, after dinner, he goes to the coffee-houſe; or ſpends a leiſure hour in reading ſome amuſing pamphlet; at other times he is engaged with ſome agreeable company, who are either diſpoſed for a game at cards, or for entering into converſation; which doubtleſs are the beſt meaſures that can be taken for ſhaking off that ſupineſs, or indolence, which naturally attends the drinking of the waters; and to which a hearty meal and the heat of the day very greatly contribute. That is the part of time that lies the moſt upon peoples hands; becauſe the afternoons are too hot for walking abroad, except it be in the gardens of the capuchins: there indeed, you may be in the ſhade, either on one ſide or the other of it, all the day long. Some gentlemen and ladies now and then divert themſelves there till five o'clock; at which time the aſſembly begins.

Theſe gardens, in former days, were the only walks about the Spa, except the meadows in its environs, which were ſometimes frequented for variety's ſake, and a more extenſive proſpect. One day, after our Siameſe had dined with a numerous company at Monſ. L***'s, the ladies propoſed

to

to take a tour in thoſe gardens. Accordingly, the gentlemen very chearfully agreed to attend them. Thoſe walks are looked upon as the beſt that lie ſo near the Spa. There are two very agreeable alleys, the hedges whereof are ſo thick and high, that they ſecure their viſiters from the too intenſe rays of the ſun almoſt all the day long. There are other walks beſides, in which there are ſeveral very commodious alcoves, or arbours, and from whence there are divers proſpects which ſtrike the eye in the moſt agreeable manner. However, notwithſtanding they are thus agreeable, they are but very ſeldom frequented at preſent; becauſe their declivity renders them leſs acceptable than they would be, were the grounds all upon a level. Beſides, the walks are too narrow for abundance of company, eſpecially at ſuch times as they meet each other. Add to this, that the various new walks that have been contrived within theſe few years laſt paſt are much more commodious, and render, indeed, the former almoſt uſeleſs; the merit of them being greatly depreciated by the beauty and various conveniencies of the Seven o'clock walk. However, they have ſtill one advantage to boaſt of above the reſt; and that is, the capuchins walks are agreeable all or any hours of the day, and for that reaſon are not totally abandoned.

There is one very remarkable circumſtance that attends this garden in particular; namely, it is the only convent of the order of capuchins, where the ladies are on any account admitted; but here, indeed,

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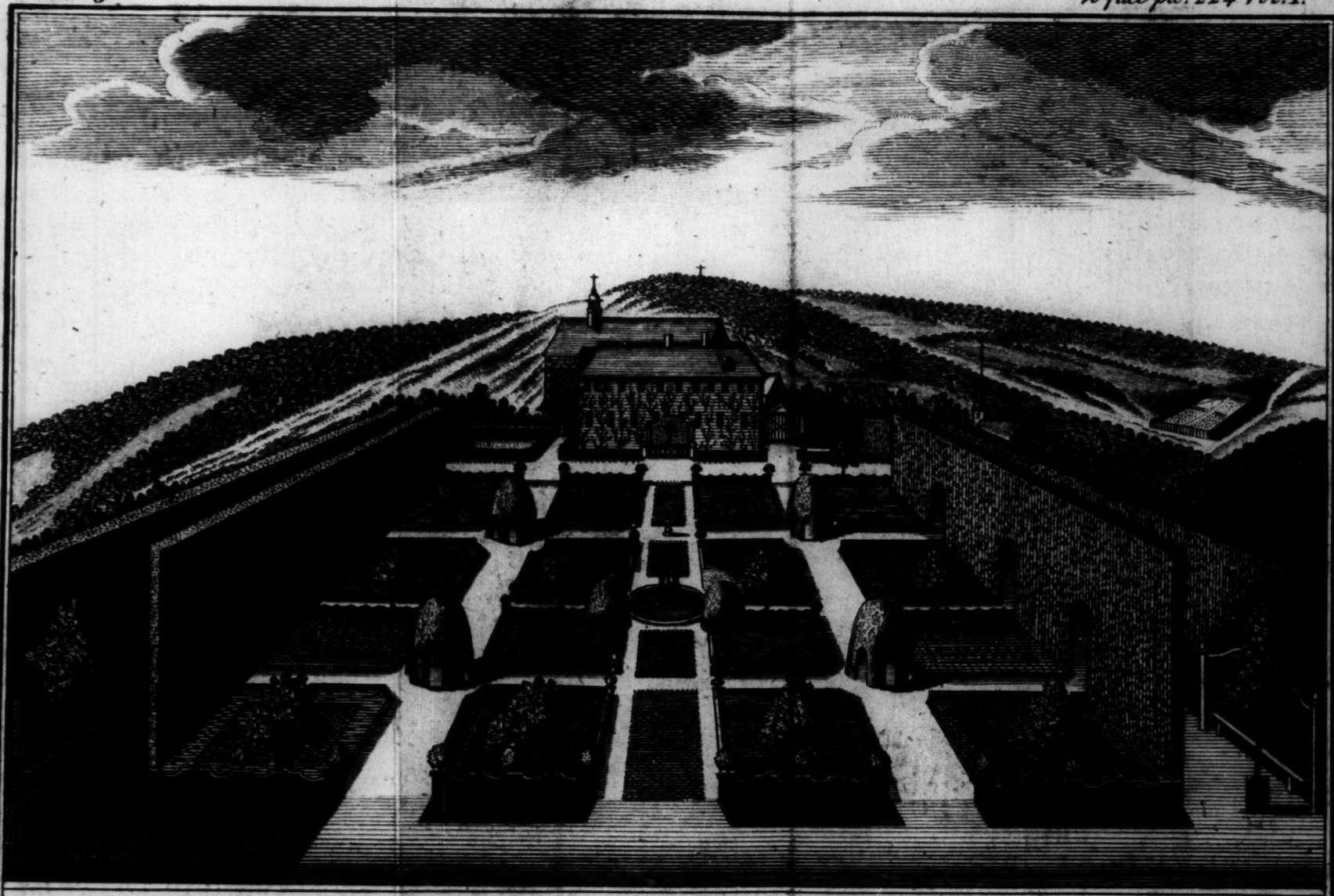

The Capuchins Garden

indeed, they walk with the ſame freedom and eaſe as in the common ſtreets, as it is not compriſed within the encloſure, or walls, of the convent. The company ſtopped a while at the fine fountain, or jet d'eau which ſtands in the centre of the garden, where it is extremely cool and pleaſant, as all the little arbours that ſurround it have a communication with it, and partake of its refreſhment. After a ſhort ſtay here they removed in order to take a tour in the other leſſer walks belonging to the garden. When they were got, however, towards the lower end, one of the company took particular notice of another jet d'eau, that ſtruck the eye almoſt as agreeably as the former. This is a very ſpacious baſon, with the image of our Saviour, beſtowing a profuſion of water for the healing of the wounds of all ſuch as laboured under any diſorder in their hands or feet. Some of the company ſeemed to be diſguſted with the vanity and idle notion of the contriver. One of the ladies, in particular, very frankly told the fathers that attended them, that, as much a catholic Chriſtian as ſhe was, ſhe was offended at the repreſentation; that ſhe looked upon it as altogether indecent; nay, farther, that it was abſolutely profane to decorate a place, wholly devoted to amuſement, and the delight of the eye, with an image ſo ſacred, and held in ſuch profound reverence by every true member of the church of Rome. The venerable abbot thereupon thought it incumbent on him to juſtify the idea, and to convince the lady, that it was ſo far

from

from any profanation, that it was placed there with a pious intention to remind every ſpectator of the ſorrows and ſufferings his bleſſed Saviour underwent for the ſalvation of a ſinful world, and farther to teſtify, that in all the tranſitory enjoyments of this life, we ought never to fix our minds with ſo much attention upon them as to prove ungrateful, and forget the fountain from whence all our bleſſings flow. The lady, however, would not give up the cauſe; but ſtill inſiſted, that the repreſentation of our bleſſed Saviour in ſuch a place was at leaſt expoſed to the public ridicule of thoſe who had little or no regard for religion, and that every ſtumbling-block in concerns of ſuch importance ought carefully to be removed. The reverend father begged of the lady to conſider, that ſuch reflections, when impiouſly made, where only caſual abuſes, from which the moſt ſacred intentions are not wholly ſecure, when the wicked are diſpoſed to rally; but that equity and juſtice require us to put the beſt and moſt favourable conſtructions, at all times, on deſigns of this nature; that as we ought by no means to treat the Saviour of the world as an object of contempt, it could never be accounted, with the leaſt ſhadow of juſtice, an impropriety, much leſs an act of impiety, to call Chriſt to our remembrance, in the midſt of a pleaſure ſo innocent, and ſo well adapted for ſerious contemplation, as this refreſhing fountain. To this the lady inſtantly replied, that the objects of our higheſt veneration, much leſs thoſe of our moſt profound

found adoration, ought never to be introduced amongſt the ſcenes of temporal pleaſure; and in ſhort, that the intermixture is not only unnatural, but contradictory to the rules of the Chriſtian religion. And here, for the confirmation of the rule preſcribed, ſhe quoted an antient law, well known to all true and devout catholics, who have aſſured us, that one of the firſt Chriſtian emperors abſolutely prohibited the painting of our Saviour, or his croſs, even upon any floor-cloths in the richeſt apartments, for fear of any pollution, or caſual profanation. In ſhort, the lady maintained the doctrine ſhe had advanced with ſo much zeal and pious reſolution, that the company were perfectly ſilent in this debate, and left her to determine the point, and reap all the glory of her conqueſt over the abbot. One gentleman, however, was pleaſed to ſay, that, in his humble opinion, much might be advanced on both ſides of the queſtion; that the innocent intention of any deſign whatever obliged all good natured obſervers to put a favourable conſtruction upon it; inſomuch that one and the ſame thing may ſometimes be concluded to be both good and bad, according to the prepoſſeſſion of the perſon who pronounces ſentence upon it. That additional remark put an end to the controverſy, and left the point at laſt undecided, or to the arbitration at leaſt of the two contending parties. The gentleman, however, made a handſome apology to the lady for breaking in upon a converſation, wherein ſhe had expreſſed her ſentiments with ſuch a religious

gious concern, and with ſo much judgment; but withal told her he would not have interfered, but that it was full time for the debate to be cloſed, leſt it ſhould deprive the company of the pleaſure of the ball that was to be given that evening, eſpecially ſince he was fully convinced, that it would be favoured with a very brilliant appearance. Every one, and more particularly the lady ſo deeply engaged, agreed, with all the chearfulneſs imaginable, to drop the ſubject of ſo ſerious a nature, in order to become partakers of an innocent amuſement, which was more entertaining, tho' not, perhaps, equally inſtructive.

The clock had ſtruck five, which was the uſual hour for opening the ball, which was holden at a private houſe in the High-ſtreet on one ſide of the Pouhon ſpring. This houſe is frequented in a double capacity, that is to ſay, for parties of pleaſure to game in, and for the balls above mentioned, which were conſtantly held there twice a week during the ſeaſon. Theſe balls and aſſemblies are public. Nothing is paid for admittance into them, but only for the cards that are made uſe of on the occaſion. As to the former, every gentleman pays four eſcalins for his entrance; but then he is at liberty to bring with him as many ladies as he thinks proper, without any additional expence. The hall is very ſpacious, and in all reſpects well calculated for theſe public entertainments, which, for the generality, cauſe a ſplendid appearance. After a few minuets, which are uſually practiſed for opening

opening thoſe balls, Engliſh country dances ſucceed; the vivacity, or rapid motion whereof, is apt to dazzle, and make the ſpectators themſelves ſeemingly giddy. Our Siameſe obſerved them with no ſmall ſurpriſe. Dancing, 'tis true, is a very uſeful exerciſe; it gives a kind of emotion and freedom to the humours; but when ſuch movement is too violent and rapid, it degenerates into diſorder, and becomes pernicious. Some of the gentlemen and ladies are ſo fond of dancing with that rapidity, which too often heats them to ſuch a degree, that upon their growing cool by ſitting ſtill too ſoon afterwards, the conſequences prove dangerous, and ſometimes fatal.

On ball days there is no gaming allowed of in the hall; on other days you may find ten or a dozen ſeparate parties engaged at cards, at different tables. However, on one ſide of the hall, and in the gardens, there are divers little commodious apartments, which are furniſhed properly for the accommodation of ſuch parties of pleaſure as are diſpoſed for gaming, but more eſpecially that ſpecies of it commonly called Pharo, which is as much practiſed on ball days as at other times. Such gaming is not much to be objected againſt, whilſt 'tis followed with due moderation; but where the game becomes a ſtudy, a paſſion, a concern of moment and importance, there the perſons engaged can do nothing worſe to obſtruct and prevent the waters from meeting with the deſired ſucceſs, and nothing

thing has a more natural tendency towards making the mind reſtleſs and uneaſy, too frequent inſtances whereof are very conſpicuous at the Spa.

Moſt people who are warm, through the heat of the weather, or by ſuch various exerciſes as the regimen of the waters requires, drink, for the generality, one glaſs of the Pouhon ſpring about ſix or ſeven o'clock. As this water is perfectly delicious, when mixt with any acid ſyrups, ſuch as citron, or lemon, or raſberry ſyrup; and as thoſe particular fruits themſelves are very refreſhing and anti-ſcorbutic, gentlemen, whilſt at the aſſemblies, but more particularly at the balls, ſend their ſervants to the apothecaries for ſuch a quantity of thoſe ſyrups as they think proper; and ſuch gentlemen and ladies, who ſtand in more need of ſomething ſtrengthening and balſamic for the ſtomach, drink the mineral waters mixed with the ſyrup of quinces, or of capillaire. Company likewiſe, at other times, will frequently reſort to the apothecaries ſhops themſelves, as there are ſeveral within a ſmall diſtance from the Pouhon well. Gentlemen frequent thoſe ſhops with the ſame freedom as they go to a coffee-houſe, as well after dinner, as in the morning: they are all well provided enough for their reſpective cuſtomers, but that in particular at one corner, where there is a very commodious canopy, and proper chairs well contrived for the reception of polite company; and as theſe ſhops are ſituate in or near the centre of the town, and very near the Pouhon ſpring, they

they ſtand extremely well for anſwering the ends propoſed, and for the accommodation of company at a leiſure hour: and, as almoſt all the viſiters of the Spa reſort thither occaſionally, there is ſeldom an hour paſſes but a perſon may meet with good company there, as well as at either of the bookſellers, who are their neighbours.

Sometimes there are a company of comedians reſident at the Spa. 'Till lately they exhibited their performances at a ſhocking place called the Grey-mare inn; but the regent of the town having purchaſed the White-roſe inn, in the month of December laſt, in order to erect a very commodious theatre in the out-parts near the ſtables, and to new-front the building facing the ſtreet, he propoſes to get his theatre ready for playing in by the beginning of July at fartheſt, in order to its turning out to account as ſoon as poſſible, whilſt the workmen are getting ready the proper decorations for the enſuing ſeaſon. This ſpot, allotted for the theatre, will be three-ſcore and eight feet in length, and five and thirty in breadth. As to the public building which is intended to cover it, and front the ſtreet, the plan of it is not as yet fully ſettled and adjuſted: the purchaſer, however, is determined to ſpare no neceſſary expence in the execution of it, in order to make it, not only beautiful, but as convenient as can poſſibly be deſired. Its ſituation, not far from the ſquare, and very near the centre of the town, will be a great article to recommend it.

The play, the balls, and aſſemblies, are all over, for the generality, by about ſeven o'clock; from whence the brilliant part of the company adjourn to the Seven o'clock walk, before they go to ſupper. This meal, properly ſpeaking, is nothing more than a kind of collation of apples, cherries, and plums, or other fruits, either raw or ſtewed; a little ſoup, or freſh eggs with ſpinnage; but very ſeldom any kind of meats, except now and then roaſted pigeons, or chickens; and very often this repaſt conſiſts of nothing but a biſcuit, or ſimply a cruſt of bread with a glaſs of wine.

Our Siameſe had not been reſident above a week, or ten days at fartheſt, before he was perfectly well acquainted with all the peculiar cuſtoms of the place. He ſoon made proper remarks on the different taſtes and natural inclinations of the vaſt concourſe of people of both ſexes, and of all ranks and degrees, whom he ſaw viſiters of the Spa. What a prodigious variety of gentlemen and ladies, ſaid he, attracts my attention! Amongſt ſuch a multitude, he found ſeveral perſons, of both ſexes, extremely polite and complaiſant: men of merit, high birth, and great character, whoſe acquaintance afforded him a key, as it were, to facilitate his travels into foreign countries, and whoſe company rendered his reſidence at the Spa exceedingly delightful. In ſhort, he found every one, in general, very courteous and obliging, and moſt things in high taſte, and to his entire ſatisfaction. He could not, however, forbear making

making frequent remarks on the gay deportment of the coquettes; the impertinence of the court-rakes, or libertines; on thoſe who frequent the walks with no other view but to out-ſhine others; on ſuch as went thither purely to talk about buſineſs; on ſuch who removed from thence into private arbours to tell their love-ſtories to the ladies, or to converſe without reſtraint: ſome he found ſtole away to amuſe themſelves with the peruſal of an ingenious and inſtructive author, or to enjoy the pleaſures of retirement; others he found, like miſanthropes, or man-haters, who retired to avoid all company: he made his remarks, moreover, on the ſhallow wits, and ſuperficial gentry; on thoſe who look down with an eye of contempt on their equals, and are ambitious of reſiding amongſt none but a parcel of demi-gods, or heroes: in a word, he obſerved the various ſteps and meaſures that were taken by all ſorts of perſons in general, and thoſe in particular who drank the waters without any regard to their ſalutary virtues, but purely out of faſhion. The vaſt concourſe of people of all ranks and degrees, and of both ſexes, at the Spa, conſtitute a microcoſm, or little world, as has been before obſerved; they are an aſſembly, for the moſt part, of very illuſtrious perſonages, amongſt whom, however, ſlip in, as it were, as it happens in all other places, a ſet of coxcombs, who give themſelves very fantaſtic airs, and aſſume characters to which they have not the leaſt right or title. There is not a ſeaſon wherein ſome

one or other does not render himſelf the juſt object of public ridicule by his exceſſive extravagance and romantic deportment, and is an original upon record. Our Siameſe diſtinguiſhes all ſuch characters; and wherever he turns himſelf, finds room enough for ſatyrical reflections. To give a ſtriking ſpecimen of one of theſe ridiculous characters, I ſhall have recourſe to the Spa miſcellany, publiſhed long ſince, wherein I find the following narrative, which I doubt not will give us ſome entertainment, as it ſeems to be wrote with abundance of life and ſpirit.

"Upon our return to the inn, where we had "lodged," ſays our author, "we found the "company greatly increaſed. Whilſt we were "amuſing ourſelves in the gardens of the capu- "chins, a great number of new viſiters were juſt "arrived; and that part of them which fell to "our lot, conſiſted of two Engliſh gentlemen, "an Italian cavalier, two ladies, and a native of "Brabant, whoſe follies and impertinencies af- "forded us a daily farce during one part of the "ſeaſon. He ſet up for one of the elector of "Cologne's chamberlains, and aſſumed the title "of the count of L***, notwithſtanding "his father, who was a diſtinguiſhed officer, "always contented himſelf with the plain and "ſimple character of a man of honour, which he "conſtantly maintained. This young fop gave "us, by way of prologue, a long account of "his genealogy, into which he hooked in, or "introduced,

" introduced, ſome near or diſtant relation to all " the moſt illuſtrious families in Europe. After " this he entertained us with a peculiar detail of " his equipage, and numerous retinue; of his va- " lets, and a long train of other inferior do meſtics; " and, in ſhort, of his annual expences: then follow- " ed a long catalogue of his fortunate adventures; " and, in one and the ſame breath, a liſt of his " gallantries, and the coſtly entertainments he " had publicly given at the much-frequented wells " of Aix-la-Chapelle; and that he had entertained " ſome thoughts of indulging the ladies at the Spa " in the like manner. One Mr. Lake, who was " an arch droll belonging to our party, and " embraced every opportunity that offered for " the promotion of mirth, highly approved of his " ſchemes, and gave him all the encouragement " imaginable to carry them into execution: he, " with the gravity of a counſellor, liſtened to, " and ſeemed to approve of, all the idle and im- " pertinent ſtories that he related with ſuch an " air of aſſurance; and, as a teſtimony of his re- " gard for a gentleman of his veracity, promiſed " to introduce him to the ladies. Every " one heard the converſation that paſſed be- " tween them. We diverted ourſelves with at- " tending to this humorous ſcene, and congratu- " lated ourſelves on our good ſucceſs in finding " this coxcomb unmaſk himſelf in ſo extraordi- " nary a manner.

" When all the company were removed from " table, and we were alone, we ſet upon Mr. " Lake, and aſked him, how he could be ſo cruel,

" as to ſooth ſuch a pragmatical coxcomb, after " ſo egregious a manner, in his vanity and ſelf- " conceit. Mr. Lake, however, was ſo far from " making any apology on that account, that he " aſſured us, we ſhould ſoon meet with divers " others, as ſenſeleſs fribbles as the count he had " ſo ridiculed; neither was he out in his conjec- " ture. Nay, he piqued himſelf on his puſhing " on the joke, as far as it would any ways bear; " and inſiſted, that it was the moſt effectual means " to open the fool's eyes, and bring him to the " ſtool of repentance. As for our parts, we " looked upon the young fop with an eye of com- " paſſion, as one of thoſe extravagant knight er- " rants, who, like Don Quixote, was touched " in his brains, by over fondly ſetting himſelf up " for a perſon of high diſtinction, or for one of " thoſe ſelf-conceited quality rakes, who were " born before their time, who to their natural im- " perfections added that of affectation. Our frib- " ble was one of theſe empty-headed, half-begot- " ten beaus: his airs, his manners, his gait, his " very complexion, demonſtrated the coxcomb.

" He made his perſonal appearance, early the " next morning, at the Pouhon ſpring, in all his " affected graces. His countenance was as ruddy " as that of the bluſhing morning: he had patched " it, indeed, here and there, but with a due re- " gard to the niceſt ſymmetry and proportion. " The flaps of his coat were as large as thoſe of " a lady's gown; his hair was curled, and " dreſſed out, like the treſſes of an actreſs. " Though thus formally equipped, he gave you to

underſtand,

" underſtand, that he ventured to follow the mode,
" and make his public appearance in diſhabille.
" His two valets, with abundance of gravity, at-
" tended him to the wells; one with a ſmall gob-
" let, or drinking cup, on a ſilver ſalver; and the
" other with a fine damaſk napkin over his arm,
" in order to wipe his mouth and his fingers after
" drinking the waters. We could not refrain
" from laughing at ſo ridiculous a ſight. How-
" ever, in order to make our farther remarks,
" we moved a little nearer towards him. As my
" lady *** was the foremoſt, ſhe congratulated
" him on his ſafe arrival at the Spa. Our for-
" mal blunderbuſs, imagining he had made a
" conqueſt, at his very firſt appearance, through
" the dint of his perſonal merit, approached the
" lady, with all the aſſurance of a man of quality,
" to return the compliment with one of his beſt
" bows. My lady, on the other hand, anſwered
" it with one of her loweſt courteſies. The count
" renewed the ſalutation firſt with his right leg,
" then with his left: all our company copied the
" fool ſucceſſively, in order to prolong the compli-
" mental ſcene: and as there were five of us, no leſs
" than thirty different cringes paſſed between us.
" 'Twas a humorous dumb ſcene enough: and the
" late Monſ. Rigadon, of capering memory, never
" ſhewed ſuch a variety of new ſteps. The eyes
" of every body were upon us: and I am apt to
" think, that this pantomine had held till night,
" had not the lady happily ſpoke, and told him
" that very few perſons of quality were ſo ex-

" tremely ceremonious. He very ingenuouſly ac-
" knowledged his error, but, by way of excuſe,
" acquainted her ladyſhip, that he had lately been
" too converſant with ſome of the citizens wives
" at Aix, and he was apprehenſive, that they
" had in ſome meaſure corrupted his manners. I
" am perfectly aſhamed, madam, ſaid the count,
" of this caſual abſurdity; and I don't doubt but
" my couſins, the princes of Heſſe, will railly me
" pretty ſeverely on this occurrence, when they
" come to viſit me at my apartment. My lady,
" by this reply, being ſufficiently convinced of
" his foible, that is to ſay, his vanity and ſelf-
" conceit, told him he muſt, doubtleſs, have ſe-
" veral very valuable relations in the Engliſh
" court, as ſhe had heard he was firſt couſin to
" the dutcheſs of ***. Oh! doubtleſs, madam,
" anſwered he at once; and I propoſe very ſhortly
" to take a tour to England on purpoſe to pay my
" compliments to that illuſtrious family. I'll in-
" troduce you to her, ſir; ſhe is here at the wells;
" and the honourable miſs Hamilton, who is a
" perfect beauty, has accompanied her hither. I
" do not in the leaſt queſtion, ſir, but that ami-
" able young lady is likewiſe a near relation. He
" ſeemed to be put a little to a nonplus when
" he heard her grace was upon the ſpot, but
" ſcorned, however, to retract what he had ſo
" openly aſſerted. He added, moreover, that it
" was highly probable, that miſs was a relation,
" ſince his great-grand-mother was one of the Ha-
" miltons. Pray, ſir, ſaid my lady, with all the

" ſeeming

" ſeeming gravity imaginable, do you viſit your " relations every year?—Yes, madam, doubtleſs, I " do, replied the count. Why then, ſir, ſaid ſhe, if " that be the caſe, I am heartily concerned for " the vaſt fatigue you muſt of neceſſity undergo: " for you muſt annually, ſir, I perceive, make " the tour of all Europe. The count ſwallowed " the compliment, and fooliſhly imagining that " my lady meant what ſhe ſaid, entered upon a " freſh detail of his kindred; and not one of " them, for what we could diſcern, was below a " count or a lord. Our droll, Mr. Lake, our man " of mirth, immediately takes a glaſs of the pure " mineral, and toaſts the king of Sweden, who muſt " indiſputably be a near relation, as being an illu- " ſtrious member of the houſe of Heſſe. Every " one plainly perceived, in propoſing that health, " that he toaſted at once all the German princes. " In good faith, ſaid my lady, upon taking her " leave, I imagine, ſir, your mother has in her " time been a very reſpectable lady, and your fa- " ther a man of unblemiſhed character, ſince they " have ſuch a number of relations of the higheſt " diſtinction. It is highly probable, that the " count did not rightly comprehend this laſt ſar- " caſtical ſneer, ſince all the return he made to " it was a profound bow; and thereupon he in- " ſtantly quitted the wells with his retinue, in or- " der to conſult his looking-glaſs, and new dreſs " himſelf againſt dinner.

" Upon his ſecond appearance, he ſhone in all " his meridian luſtre: it was impoſſible for any ſir

" Courtly Nice to cut a more complete figure.
" All his colours were more artfully laid on,
" and his former patches were ranged all anew:
" he had on a ſuit of ſilk clothes much more
" ſpruce and more elegant than that in the
" morning; and every other article was much
" better ſettled and adjuſted. All theſe impor-
" tant affairs were the whole labours of the morn-
" ing. It was late before he came to table.
" We had all of us the ill-nature to riſe, in
" order to create a new ſcene of ſalutations; and
" we had plenty of bows of the neweſt faſhion.
" Every one ſeemed fond of helping him as ſoon
" as ſeated, but he was not duly prepared for
" falling to. One of his valets brought him a
" large ſilk handkerchief that he had left be-
" hind on his toilette: after that, he was obliged
" to ſign two or three letters, which his ſecretary
" had been writing, each directed, or addreſſed,
" to ſome count or baron: after the diſpatch of
" theſe, and before he began to eat, he had
" quite forgot his ſnuff-box, which his valet
" ran out and fetched in a minute; but as miſ-
" fortunes will ſometimes happen, the fellow
" brought him Spaniſh inſtead of Rappé: away
" flew the valet for the other ſnuff-box; both
" were extremely brilliant: upon this he ranged
" them on each ſide of his plate: to one of theſe
" he added a little gold caſe. When theſe gaudy
" trinkets were all duly adjuſted, which we
" ſurveyed in ſilence, he helped himſelf to ſome
" ſoup. When the deſſert was ſet upon the
table,

" table, he played a hundred little tricks of gal-
" lantry. He cut a variety of fruits into a
" variety of ſhapes, and preſented them to the
" ladies, with this proper remark, that he had
" touched them with nothing but a clean knife.
" He ſeemed very ambitious of out-ſhining my
" lord Colifichet. All on a ſudden he wanted
" ſadly to know what o'clock it was, in order
" for a favourable opportunity of pulling out his
" own gold repeating watch, adorned with a
" variety of brilliants, with a long chain, loaded
" with a dozen trinkets at leaſt, beſides a good
" number of rich ſeals, with particular devices;
" all which were ſo many diſtinguiſhed favours re-
" ceived from ladies of the firſt diſtinction; and
" notwithſtanding the ſeeming hurry he was in,
" he expatiated on each preſent, and let us into
" the ſecret hiſtory of them all.

" The marquis proving as little curious as
" myſelf, we left him with Mr. Lake, and
" waited directly on my lady, in order to give
" her an impartial account of every circumſtance
" of this new farce. 'Tis very certain, how-
" ever, that what amuſed us ſo greatly at firſt
" proved very diſguſtful in the end; ſo juſt is
" the obſervation, that even raillery and ridicule
" have their certain bounds, or limitations, and
" become flat and inſipid when puſhed too far.
" Notwithſtanding what we have above related
" is nothing more than a ſmall ſpecimen of the
" brilliant follies, and extravagant exploits, of
" the count L * * *; yet moſt of our readers,

" we are apt to think, will look on it only as a " fictitious character: but be that as it may, we " are well aſſured, that there are ſuch coxcombs " in nature; and the marquis was pleaſed to make " the following remarks. When we read the " characters drawn by Theophraſtus and Bruyere, " and thoſe in ſeveral comedies, that ſhine in " Moliere's works, ſaid he, we are perfectly " aſtoniſhed at the ridiculous figures which they " have introduced in their writings, of ſome " certain perſonages who were ſhining examples " of vanity and ſelf-conceit in the ſeveral ages in " which they lived. Thoſe characters ſeem ex- " travagant, and bigger than the life; and we " can ſcarce be prevailed upon to conceive that " there ever were, in reality, any ſuch egregious " coxcombs in the land of the living, as thoſe " they have expoſed to public view. They " took a kind of pleaſure, 'tis to be imagined, " in introducing on the ſtage ſuch ridiculous " heroes, purely for the amuſement of their co- " temporaries. Thus people, doubtleſs, are apt " to judge, becauſe they never ſaw the originals " from whence they drew their copies. We " ourſelves ſhould have formed the very ſame " judgment of the author, who had brought ſuch " a quality-impoſtor upon the ſtage, as the young " fop we have been talking of, had not we been " eye-witneſſes of that fool in faſhion. After " all, ſaid the marquis, the contempt we de- " monſtrate of ſuch an object of ridicule, is " founded on reaſon. Nature has imprinted on

" the

" the minds of mankind ſuch a certain character " of, or love and affection for, truth, that what- " ever deviates in the leaſt from it gives them " diſguſt; from whence it naturally occurs, that " we ſhew ſome pity or concern for an hypocrite " or impoſtor, but make an affected fool our " laughing-ſtock, and the object of ridicule. " That contempt which naturally ariſes from " affectation, carries us ſo far, that it makes us " more inclined to forgive a rake, or libertine, " by profeſſion, than an hypocritical devotee: " and the reaſon is, becauſe we diſcover nothing " but a meanneſs of ſpirit, and an intention to " deceive, in the man who diveſts himſelf of " all foreign or external airs, and in what he " imitates, has nothing, in reality, in him but " affectation. But be that as it will, ſaid my " lady, this young fooliſh count is a lucky ac- " quiſition; let us derive from it what diverſion " we can. No ſooner were the words out of " her mouth, but information was brought them, " that Mr. Lake had introduced this coxcomb " into the company of the dutcheſs, having firſt " given her proper intimation. My lady, who " was to play her part in this new ſcene, had " the curioſity once more to go and have another " interview with this bright original.

" No ſooner had our fribble ſet eyes on us, " but he looked upon us with an air of pro- " tection, which added not a little to our di- " verſion. The dutcheſs made him believe that " my lady was greatly prejudiced in his favour;

" and

" and that ſhe would not have waited on her,
" but on his account. He was fully confirmed
" in that notion, from the very handſome things
" my lady had before ſaid, relative to the fancy
" of his dreſs, and his courteous deportment.
" Indeed, ſir, ſaid ſhe, your taſte for gallantry is
" very conſpicuous in your perſon. She uttered
" divers other expreſſions very pertinent to the
" occaſion, which, though they made us
" ſmile, perfectly made the count my lady's cap-
" tive. He accoſted her with an air of reſpect,
" and offered her a ball; but ſhe begged of him
" to make that compliment to the dutcheſs, who
" was willing to accept of one the Thurſday then
" next enſuing, at our inn, the hall whereof was
" very ſpacious, and every way fit for ſuch a
" public purpoſe. After this grand point was
" thus ſettled and adjuſted, the company ſat down
" to cards; but our falſe count committed ſo
" many groſs blunders, and created ſo much
" confuſion, that the company choſe rather to
" ſpend the evening in chearful and entertaining
" converſation than at play. My lady liſtened
" with ſo good a grace to her lover's ſighs, that
" ſhe drew from him divers declarations in form,
" the ſtyle whereof was as much over-ſtrained,
" and affected, as his deportment was ridiculous.
" This was, in reality, a perfect farce. Mr.
" Lake performed the part of the confidant;
" and the dutcheſs played hers; and we were
" the ſpectators: but the artful addreſs and
" good humour of my lady, who was well
" verſed

" verſed in putting on both affectionate and cruel " airs, according as the caſe required, gave ſuch " a life to this ſcene, and made it as perfectly " agreeable, as if all the actors had been in " earneſt. At laſt, however, ſhe began to be " tired with playing the coquette, and fearing " leſt ſhe ſhould find it ſomewhat difficult to get " rid of her importunate lover, ſtepped out into " another chamber, from whence ſhe made her " eſcape, with one of her friends, who was be- " low, and ready to wait on her to her own " private apartments.

" When her ladyſhip was gone, we ſoon fol- " lowed, and returned to ſupper at our inn. " Our count never made his appearance there all " the evening, though what detained him I " cannot ſay. 'Tis highly probable he had en- " tertained the old romantic notion, that a man " in love ſhould be above eating. His abſence, " however, gave us a favourable opportunity of " laughing at his moſt egregious follies without " reſerve; eſpecially as we were not a little fond " of entertaining the Italian chevalier with his " numerous frolics and atchievements. As he " arrived the ſame evening with him at the " Spa, we ſpent the beſt part thereof in giving " him a particular detail of our young Don " Quixote. 'Tis poſſible, he imagined, that " we carried our ridicule to too great a " length.

" The next day there was a public ball; and as " it had rained hard in the afternoon, and the

" wind

" wind was too high for taking any pleaſure in the " walks, all the beau monde of the Spa were aſ- " ſembled together: the concourſe of people of " the beſt faſhion of both ſexes was ſo numerous, " in ſhort, that there was ſcarce room for any dan- " cing. Our extravagant pretended count of L*** " ſhone there, and, after his uſual manner, play- " ed a thouſand notable pranks. He flew from " one lady to another, and paid them all a ſet of " compliments as ridiculous and affected as the " ſingular figure that he made. He was ſo fully " convinced, however, that none of the ladies " were offended at his little gallantries, that my " lady was not only obliged to dance with him, " but to accept of his private ball on the Thurſ- " day following; to which he very formally invited " her, though ſhe would have been highly de- " lighted in caſe he had forgot it.

" For the great repoſe of my lady, and for ours " likewiſe, our court-coxcomb had contracted " a new acquaintance with two young ladies, who " were natives of Liege, and were juſt arrived " at the Spa, with an intent to amuſe themſelves " there for about a week or a fortnight; and was " ſoon ſmitten with their charms. This new " adventure gave us ſome reſpite; for during " their reſidence at the Spa, his whole engage- " ments lay there. This good fortune of ours " laſted, however, but a ſhort time; for not- " withſtanding the commerce between them was " perfectly innocent, an old lady of Liege, no " friend of the count's, put a ſtop to his conſtant " attendance on the young ladies, and took care

" to

" to have them recalled by their parents. This " ſudden and unexpected departure of theirs " confounded our amorous adventurer, and " made him guilty of a hundred frantic ex- " ploits. He would, in the firſt place, wait on " them home, and offered them his chariot for " that purpoſe, though the favour was peremp- " torily refuſed. They could not, however, pre- " vent him from eſcorting them on horſe-back: " and he ordered his chariot to follow him, " though empty, to demonſtrate at leaſt, that " their hiring a hackney coach was ſorely againſt " his inclinations.

" He would, doubtleſs, have met with no over " courteous reception there; and there would, in " all probability, have riſen a quarrel between " him and the young ladies relations, if he had " not been obliged to return directly, in order to " attend the ball, which he had engaged to give " the ladies at the Spa, the next day. As the " care of his toilette was an article of no ſmall " importance, and required ſome time to ſettle " and adjuſt, it was late at night before he " returned home; and his unexpected arrival " put the whole inn in agitation. Notwithſtand- " ing the fatigue which he, doubtleſs, muſt have " gone through by means of his journey, rather " than to go to bed, he choſe to amuſe himſelf " with ranging in proper order his large packet " of comfits and ribbands of all ſorts, which he " had brought with him from Liege, as requiſites " for the approaching ball. A confectioner,

" who

" who attended him from thence, began early " in the morning to ſet the intended deſſert in due " order; and the ſelf-conceited fop muſt needs " ſtand by to give him inſtructions. In order to " be revenged on the fool for his whim of diſ- " turbing us ſo early in the morning, the mar- " quis, Mr. Lake, and I, formed a plan, in or- " der to cloak, or palliate, the fellow's folly. " The project which we had in our heads was " ſlily to give the fool a doſe of opium in a diſh of " chocolate, that he might, after he had drank it, " have a ſound nap till it was time to open the " ball; and we begged of him, in the name of my " lady, to open it as ſoon as poſſible, under a " pretence, that as ſhe had ſat up late the even- " ing before, ſhe ſhould be glad to have the ball " concluded ſome time ſooner than uſual. The " project was carried into execution to a tittle; " and the count, having been fatigued himſelf, " very readily liſtened to the propoſition, and " looked upon it as an act of indulgence in the " queen of the ball.

" A canon of Liege, who happened to lodge " at our inn, and was equally nettled at the un- " ſeaſonable diſturbance, gave into our ſcheme. " He knew the count perfectly well, and told us " a thouſand ſtories of his paſt miſconduct. I have " been hitherto too indulgent to the coxcomb, " ſaid he; but now I will unmaſk him at once, " and ſhew the fool in all his glaring colours, " ſince there are no hopes of his reformation. I " can aſſure you, gentlemen, he's a married man,

" and

" and I know his wife perfectly well. Her uſual
" place of reſidence is at Duſſeldorp. We were
" all ſtartled at this diſcovery; for we all looked
" upon him as a young, giddy-headed, ſingle
" fop. What I tell you, added the canon, is nothing
" more, gentlemen, than downright matter of fact.
" One of my nephews was a fellow-ſtudent with
" him at Louvain; and he firſt informed me of
" his extravagant proceedings. I will give you
" one glaring inſtance of his folly, and of that
" whereof I myſelf was an eye witneſs. Being once
" at Bruſſels, ſome years after he left the univer-
" ſity, he trumped up an ill-concerted ſtory to
" the great diſcredit of two profeſſed dancers at the
" opera there; which turned out, in the iſſue,
" an affair of too ſerious a nature for him. The
" dancers, being men of repute in their profeſ-
" ſion, and being determined to have ſome ſatis-
" faction for their mal-treatment, uſed their ut-
" moſt endeavours to find him out, in order to
" make him explain himſelf, and do them public
" juſtice; and, moreover, openly declared in
" every coffee-houſe to which they reſorted, that
" unleſs he retracted thoſe reflections which he
" had undeſervedly caſt upon them, in the moſt
" public manner, they would cane him, wherever
" they met him, without mercy. Our ſpark,
" who is more indiſcreet, than valiant, imagined,
" that it would be an act of prudence to
" come to terms of accommodation with theſe
" two actors. He was ſo faint-hearted as to
" promiſe them, that they ſhould have all the

" ſatisfaction

" ſatisfaction that they could well require, and " invited them to a handſome ſupper, as a " teſtimony of his readineſs to compromiſe the " affair: and in order to cement that unhappy " miſunderſtanding between them, he declared, " that he had the ſtrongeſt inclination imaginable " to make his appearance on the public ſtage, " and begged the favour of their intereſt to get " him admitted into their theatre, and act " ſuch parts as they thought he was beſt qua- " lified for in ſome of their interludes. The " actors, thus perfectly reconciled, promiſed " him a recommendation to the manager; and " accordingly, the firſt thing they did the " next morning, was to write a billet ſuitable " to the occaſion.

" Our young adventurer, who at that time " had never dreamt of aſſuming the character of " a count, was ambitious of regaling his new " brother-actors. Accordingly, he conducted " them to an inn called the Red-houſe, where " he entertained them with a very elegant ſup- " per, by way of acknowledgment for the favour " received. There, in their drunken airs, they " demoliſhed every thing that ſtood in their way, " glaſſes, tables, chairs, and every looking-glaſs " in the room: in ſhort, they made a ſtrange " havock, and all at his expence. In the heat " of his liquor, he fell in love with one of the " actreſſes, who had ran through every theatre " in the German dominions. As ſhe was a " finiſhed coquette, ſhe brought him to her

" bow

" bow in a very ſhort time. She played the
" part of Lucrece, and over-awed him with her
" frowns and diſtant airs, and carried her cruel
" treatment ſo far, that ſhe gave him a round
" box on the ear before a numerous audience,
" for preſuming to toy with her, and taking
" more freedom with her than ſhe approved.
" The poor amorous coxcomb, drove to deſpair
" through ſuch public mortifications, imagined
" he ſhould ſoften her hard heart by ſending her,
" in a billet, an actual promiſe of marriage. As
" this artful miſtreſs of his was fully convinced,
" that her young hot-headed gallant would be,
" by ſo raſh an action, infallibly diſinherited,
" and that ſhe ſhould run the riſque of becoming
" infinitely miſerable with ſuch an extravagant
" partner, ſhe contented herſelf with communi-
" cating the important ſecret to his relations,
" being well aſſured, that they would leave no
" ſtone unturned to break off ſuch an alliance;
" and that ſhe, by thoſe means, ſhould be able
" to play her cards to the beſt advantage. His
" relations flew away directly to Bruſſels, and
" procured a writ from the government to ſecure
" the young fellow; and the mercenary actreſs
" conſented, upon their depoſiting two thouſand
" francks, to cancel, and deliver up, her promiſſory
" note of marriage. Our young ſpark, being
" upon this contract ſet at liberty, diſcharged all
" the expences that attended his admittance into
" the theatre. His friends, fearing he ſhould
" ſoon play ſome prank again of the like nature,

" took

" took him away with them, and, with all con-
" venient ſpeed, got him married to a very
" amiable young lady, in hopes that matrimony
" would ſettle his roving mind, make him a
" penitent rake, and a happy huſband. But
" what is bred in the bone will never out of
" the fleſh. All their parental endeavours proved
" fruitleſs and unſucceſsful; and the young lady
" was reduced to the neceſſity of ſuing him for
" a ſeparate maintenance; with which demand
" of hers he acquieſced, upon this proviſo, that
" he ſhould reſerve the twenty thouſand francks
" which ſhe had brought him as her portion;
" and which enabled him to go to the Spa, and
" aſſume the count: and according to his preſent
" method of proceeding, I do not imagine, ſaid
" the canon, that the ſum ſo reſerved will laſt
" him long.

" In my opinion, ſaid the marquis, it would
" be very proper for the canon to give my lady
" timely notice of theſe anecdotes relative to our
" young amorous adventurer, that ſhe may be
" duly prepared, in caſe ſhe ſhould have in-
" formations thereof by other hands, and not
" to be put to the bluſh for having danced with
" the coxcomb. Your motion, ſaid Mr. Lake,
" is very obliging and humane; but the affair is
" carried on too far to be retracted; the curtain
" is drawn, and the farce muſt be played out.
" Beſides, her grace the dutcheſs has a hand in
" the plot, and ſhe ought to have her ſhare in the
" diverſion. As to the reſt, leave it to me; I

" have

" have a project in my head that will sufficiently " mortify the fool. As soon as our harmless dose " of opium begins to take effect, my lady will " be plagued with him no longer. As this droll " has not the least right or title to the character " he has assumed, the coxcomb justly deserves to " be made the object of public ridicule. I am " determined to affront him openly, lest he " should delude some poor credulous person be- " fore he is detected: and there is no manner of " difficulty in carrying my scheme into execu- " tion: it requires nothing more than the assist- " ance of any smart valet, to whom he is a per- " fect stranger. I plainly perceive, said the " canon, the drift of your design. I have an " arch lad here that came yesterday on a par- " ticular message from my nephew: I was to " have dispatched him back this morning, but I " will detain him a little longer, and he shall " be entirely at your service. Leave but mat- " ters, said the droll Mr. Lake, to my manage- " ment, and you shall be entertained with a " merry farce instead of a ball. Farewel. I " will go directly to my lady, and give her her " proper cue.

" The best part of the morning was thus " taken up in forming our humourous projections. " We parted by consent as soon as our plan was " adjusted, in order only to dress ourselves; and " dinner, in course, soon brought us together " again. The count did not make his appear- " ance. His toilette was a concern of much

" greater importance than the moſt elegant en-
" tertainment. As ſoon as dinner was over, we
" immediately withdrew, and waited on my
" lady, who ſent us to the dutcheſs in order
" to conduct her to the ball. In the mean
" while, the count of L*** paid his reſpects
" to my lady, and accompanied her in his cha-
" riot to the hall door, with all his attendants.
" We arrived with her grace in a few minutes
" afterwards. We were inſtantly accommodated
" with a profuſion of confectionary wares of all
" kinds. There were then preſent about thirty
" ladies of diſtinction, and the like number of
" gentlemen, and ſome of them of the firſt rank.
" My lady, who was well inſtructed in her part,
" made the following addreſs to the whole com-
" pany: Notwithſtanding all the gentlemen are ſo
" complaiſant as to be in a ſtanding poſture, yet I
" am fully perſuaded there is no lady here preſent
" will look upon it as the leaſt breach of decency,
" or good manners, for the king of the ball to
" be ſeated, eſpecially conſidering how vaſtly he
" had been fatigued but the night before. This
" proſe prologue, or rather apology, in favour
" of the count, met with univerſal approbation
" and applauſe; and our ſelf-conceited hero,
" with an air of grandeur, took his ſeat ac-
" cordingly between the dutcheſs and my lady.
" We took particular care to ply him with liquor,
" and, with all the dexterity and addreſs ima-
" ginable, imperceptibly to adminiſter the *quan-
" tum ſufficit* of opium, according to the plan
" propoſed.

" propoſed. This was done, without the leaſt
" miſtruſt, in a glaſs of jelly, which was
" handed to him, with all the marks of loyalty
" and reſpect, by my lady, as the ſovereign of
" the ball. In the height of their mirth, and
" this mock-royalty, his majeſty was acquainted,
" that there was a country lad without, that de-
" clared he had a meſſage of the utmoſt im-
" portance to deliver to the count, and inſiſted
" on the neceſſity he was under of perſonally
" ſpeaking to him. The count would fain have
" got up, in order to withdraw on ſo urgent
" an occaſion; but the ladies begged of him not
" to ſtir, but to permit the meſſenger to be ad-
" mitted. To this requeſt he could not, with-
" out ſome difficulty, be prevailed on to aſſent,
" ſince he imagined, that one ſingle attendant
" to wait on him, on a point of importance, was
" a kind of mortification, and in ſome meaſure
" derogatory to his honour. The canon's valet
" played the part of an innocent country looby
" to perfection: pretending a world of impatience
" at being hindered from performing his errand,
" he abruptly bounces into the room, and hal-
" loos out, Pray, maiſter, don't you riſe; Iſe
" come to tell you rare news from my old miſtreſs,
" your mother: ſhe ordered me to acquaint your
" worſhip, that madam, your wife, was brought
" to-bed on Sunday laſt of a chopping boy; and
" that the lad was as like you, maiſter, as two
" peas, or two drops of water, are like one
" another. This meſſage was a ſevere mortifica-

" tion,

" tion, a ſtroke that cut our impoſtor to the
" quick. He was nettled to the laſt degree; but
" as his face was daubed ſo thick with paint, it
" happily concealed his bluſhes: beſides, the
" repeated congratulations of all the company of
" both ſexes, gave him time to breathe, and re-
" cover himſelf from the aſtoniſhment with which
" he had been ſtruck, through this unexpected
" diſcovery. They obliged him, whether he
" would or not, to accept of their congratula-
" tions; and without giving him the leaſt time
" to expoſtulate, or make the leaſt reply, they
" toaſted the mother, and the young ſon and
" heir; and this too they drank in large bumpers
" over and over, and forced him to pledge them.
" Our king of the ball was not a little em-
" barraſſed, when the ladies hovered round about
" him, and raillied him pretty ſeverely on his
" too ungenerous concealment of his marriage;
" but Mr. Lake, his pretended friend, delivered
" him from the repetition of thoſe ſarcaſms, by
" propoſing new healths, ſuch as the dutcheſs's,
" my lady's, &c. Our poor mortified count,
" glad to be relieved, refuſed none that Mr. Lake
" propoſed. The company were ſoon ſenſible
" that the wine, together with the opium, began
" to meet with the deſired effect; and thus ended
" the firſt act of their merry farce."

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END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.